



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Husayn, Rabin To Meet in al-'Aqabah

JN0208073094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2
Aug 94 p 1

[Report by staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in al-'Aqabah in the coming two weeks to launch the building of a road that would link al-'Aqabah with the Israeli port city of Elat on the Red Sea, informed sources said Monday [1 August].

The sources said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will start a visit to the region on Aug. 8, would attend the meeting, which would be the second public Jordanian-Israeli summit since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Husayn and Mr. Rabin held their first public meeting in Washington on July 25 when they signed the Washington Declaration that was seen as a major step towards signing a peace treaty between the two countries. During the meeting, King Husayn declared an end to the state of war between the Kingdom and Israel. The King also said that high-level meetings between the countries would be held whenever necessitated.

The design and the location of the road which will be open to third country nationals have already been approved by a joint Jordanian-Israeli committee, sources told the Jordan Times. They said the road will be close to the area, 13 kilometres north of al-'Aqabah, where the first public Jordanian-Israeli bilateral meeting in the region took place on July 18.

Jordan and Israel agreed to build the road and another crossing point in the north during the meetings of the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli Committee near the Dead Sea on July 20. The meeting was opened by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in his capacity as foreign minister, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Mr. Christopher.

Sources said committees agreed on during the Dead Sea meeting have already been set up to discuss cooperation in the areas of telecommunication and civil aviation, among other issues.

"The talks over opening the air space between Jordan and Israel carry special significance" because Israel cannot open an international line through Jordanian air space unless Saudi Arabia agrees to have Israeli airlines fly over its territories as well, one informed source said.

Sources said "it seems" that the United States has already started talks over the issue with Saudi Arabia, which is a party to the multilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Jordan and Israel will also resume their bilateral talks over water rights, demarcation of borders and security on Aug. 8 on the border area between the two countries, the sources said, adding that the talks would last for 14 days.

Agencies add: One source told Reuters the al-'Aqabah summit meeting would take place after Aug. 9. "Their meeting will allow them a chance to evaluate developments on their track after their first public meeting in Washington last week," one official told Reuters.

Jordan and Israel agreed to open the al-'Aqabah-Elat border post as part of confidence building measures announced by the King and Mr. Rabin after they signed the Washington Declaration. Both leaders also agreed to open another border crossing in the north, but two countries have to define the proposed site.

Jordanian and Israeli experts will meet Tuesday to discuss opening the new road link in the southwestern desert region of Wadi al-'Arabah, a senior official said. The official said the Jordanian team will include six experts from different government departments. The size and composition of the Israeli team was not known.

The official said Tuesday's meeting will take place at the same site where Israeli and Jordanian negotiators opened their first talks in the region last month.

Israeli-Palestinian Talks Open in Cairo

JN0108192994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1442
GMT 1 Aug 94

[Interview with Hasan 'Asfur, Palestinian delegate to the Palestinian-Israeli early empowerment talks, by Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi in Cairo on 1 August; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] A fresh round of Israeli-Palestinian talks began in Cairo today. The talks will address early empowerment of the Palestinians in the West Bank. This round of talks is a continuation of those held recently to reach agreement on empowerment in the five areas of education, health, tourism, taxation, and social welfare. Hasan 'Asfur is a Palestinian delegate taking part in these negotiations.

['Asfur] As is well known, the talks on early empowerment have been resumed. An opening session was held this morning. We agreed to split the two delegations into two subcommittees: One subcommittee will discuss social welfare and the other will discuss tourism. The meetings began at 1600 today. God willing, we will conclude our talks. We may conclude our talks this week. We will do our best to reach an agreement in these two areas.

[Mu'addi] During this round of talks, the Israeli and Palestinian sides will address unresolved issues in the areas of education and health.

['Asfur] The two delegations have drafted a paper on the two aforementioned areas. Nonetheless, there are outstanding issues that need to be discussed further. These

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issues concern the launching of technical offices to promote the services in the areas of health and education. Moreover, military regulations and special rules regarding the two areas need to be spelled out in order to begin the change required by the new situation.

[Mu'addi] Israeli sources have ruled out any quick agreement on these issues because the Palestinian National Authority does not have sufficient funds to exercise its powers in this regard.

[Asfur] It is hoped that there will be no attempts to place obstacles or difficulties in the way of the present negotiations. We hope that Israeli quarters, be they official or unofficial, will refrain from pursuing such methods. We hope that efforts will be made to render the talks a success so the peace process may take on meaningful dimensions. Otherwise, such views will only cast doubts on the entire peace process, which has been expanded to include other Arab sides. The continued pursuit of this approach by the Israelis cannot at all promote the overall political sentiments fostered by the peace process.

Palestinians, Israelis Hold Economic Talks

Delegate Interviewed

JN0108195694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1452
GMT 1 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Samir Hulaylah, director of the Trade Department at the Palestinian National Authority and member of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli economic talks, by correspondent Rajih Qaddur, at the conclusion of an Israeli-Palestinian economic meeting held at the Notre Dame Guest House in East Jerusalem on 1 August—from the "With the Events" program; live]

[Text] [Qaddur] Mr. Samir Hulaylah: Good afternoon.

[Hulaylah] Good afternoon.

[Qaddur] Has the meeting been concluded?

[Hulaylah] Yes, the meeting concluded a short while ago.

[Qaddur] What were the issues discussed at this meeting? Has agreement been reached on certain points?

[Hulaylah] As you must be well aware, this meeting is a continuation of the talks held by the Joint Palestinian-Israeli Economic Committee at a Jericho checkpoint eight days ago. During that meeting, it was agreed to form eight subcommittees, four of which were scheduled to meet today, Monday. Indeed, the subcommittees on trade, taxation and customs, labor, and agriculture met today. They have managed to agree on a future working agenda for the subcommittee meetings that will be held in the next few days and weeks.

[Qaddur] Has a date been set for the next meeting?

[Hulaylah] It is not necessary for the subcommittees to meet at the same time. Each subcommittee has its own

agenda, its own frame of work, and its own coordinator. There is a measure of flexibility with regard to the work of the subcommittees. I believe that further meetings will be held by these subcommittees next week. Meetings by other subcommittees that did not meet today may also be held next week.

[Qaddur] Did the Palestinian side, or Israeli side raise new issues during today's meeting?

[Hulaylah] The topics raised at this initial meeting concerned the drafting of a working agenda, and the identification of the issues and problems that all subcommittees must address. Moreover, the problems that have faced the implementation of the [Palestinian-Israeli economic] agreement in some areas were also raised. We believe that Israel has violated the agreement in various areas, including agriculture, labor, trade, as well as customs and taxation over the past three months. We want the Joint Committee and subcommittees to proceed with their work in order to resolve all outstanding problems, promote the economic agreement, and translate it into tangible realities that could benefit the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Qaddur] Could you elaborate further on the points of disagreement with the Israelis? Are there specific points of disagreement that are facing these talks?

[Hulaylah] These are not necessarily points of disagreement. The problem is that the economic agreement has not been implemented on the ground over the past few months. On the contrary, Israel has taken measures in violation of the agreement over the past few months. For example, Israel has prohibited the entry of agricultural produce into Israel; such entry was provided for in the agreement. Moreover, Israel has taken stringent measures to prevent and obstruct the entry of Palestinian merchants and trucks into Israel, as well as the movement of merchants and trucks from Gaza into the West Bank. Additionally, Israel has initiated detailed technical measures, which we consider obstructions, and do not facilitate the implementation of this agreement. The Joint Committee, and the aforementioned four subcommittees, provide a framework for resolving outstanding problems and implementing the economic agreement.

[Qaddur] Did you receive any replies to these grievances today?

[Hulaylah] It is hard to obtain replies to your grievances on the same day when the talks begin. The two sides must address these problems. The subcommittees must meet shortly, and find solutions to outstanding issues. I believe that the initiation of a hot line for communication between the two delegations to resolve problems immediately and urgently, and promote the economic relationship between the two sides could provide a mechanism for resolving problems.

[Qaddur] Mr. Samir, the Ministry of Agriculture told us today that as of tomorrow, the agricultural produce of

the Gaza Strip and Jericho, such as tomatoes, melons, and other products, will be allowed into Israel. Do you think that this move will contribute toward expediting the implementation of the agreement?

[Hulaylah] There is no doubt about that. We believe that this move is long overdue. This move should have been made in the immediate aftermath of the signing of the agreement, which took place on 4 May 1994. This move is being made three months after the signing of this agreement. In all cases, we hope that all provisions of the agreement will be implemented. These provisions reflect our rights, which must be used to the benefit of the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We hope that the implementation of this agreement will usher in a new era of ties between the two sides, and mark a positive change in future ties between the two sides.

[Qaddur] Mr. Samir Hulaylah: One last question, if you please. Despite all that has been mentioned about the talks, were today's talks positive?

[Hulaylah] I believe that the talks were held in a businesslike atmosphere. It is difficult to speak of a positive climate. We have not come to renegotiate the agreement. We already have a detailed agreement that needs mechanisms of implementation; that needs to be promoted. All we have done is to meet with the Israeli side, which mainly consisted of technical cadres, to draw up mechanisms and means for the implementation of the agreement. We have felt that both sides are interested in translating the agreement, which was reached after lengthy negotiations, into tangible and concrete realities that will be felt by the Palestinian citizens, merchants, and industrialists all the time.

[Qaddur] Mr. Samir Hulaylah, director of the Trade Department at the PNA and member of the Palestinian delegation to the economic talks: Thank you very much.

[Hulaylah] You are most welcome.

Agreement Reached on Produce

TA0208053094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Starting today, produce from the autonomy will be allowed into Israel freely. The agreement, which is part of the general economic accord between Israel and the PLO, was finalized at a meeting in Jerusalem yesterday between the director general of the Agriculture Ministry, Yonatan Bassi, and the head of the autonomy's agricultural section, Muhammad al-Ris. Other issues the joint Israeli-PLO economic committee discussed were tax and trade, the exchange of workers, and joint projects.

Reporter Harley Braidman asked Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur what exactly will happen today.

[Begin recording] [Tzur] We are having five crops that entrance of them to Israel is under a quota, which will grow up during the coming four years. But, we are having

a quota for every crop for this year, and we are going to monitor, really, that the entrance of these crops will be according to the agreement. This is tomatoes, and this is cucumbers, and eggs, and potatoes, and all the others—the free flow of the crops to Israel. It is not so dramatic change, because we have to take into account the fact that, also today, although the borders are not open we know that crops are entering to Israel because we can't lock this long border.

[Braidman] How is the Israeli consumer going to be affected and how is the Israeli grower going to be affected?

[Tzur] The Israeli growers are going to be compensated according to the agreement which was signed between the Ministry of Finance, our ministry, and the growers. Here we are speaking about a compensation for the coming four years. Basically, it means that every farmer will be compensated according to the crop that he has and he will get money which will serve him to move to a more sophisticated technology in agriculture which will bring many crops for export, or it will be a compensation for himself to move to another job; all according to his own decisions. [end recording]

Controversy Viewed

TA0208103694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] Controversy erupted yesterday over the government's decision to hold economic talks with the Palestinians in Jerusalem.

American Jewish organizations and members of the U.S. Congress expressed concern over the apparent violation of the government's policy forbidding official Palestinian activities from taking place in Jerusalem, THE JERUSALEM POST learned yesterday.

The Treasury, which announced on Sunday [31 July] that the meeting would take place, waited until yesterday to report its location, the Notre Dame Hotel in Jerusalem. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the hotel is located in the no-man's land that divided the eastern and western parts of the city prior to 1967.

Treasury Budget Director David Brodet explained that the area is not part of eastern Jerusalem. However, when pressed over the fact that it is still Jerusalem, Brodet responded that there are no limitations on meetings with Israeli officials.

"They (the Palestinians) are not allowed to run their affairs or their organizations from Jerusalem, but we can meet with them anywhere; there is no problem," he said.

Brodet, who headed the Israeli delegation to the joint economic talks with the Palestinians, said that the meeting inaugurated the normalization of economic relations between the two sides and that such meetings

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will follow the process of implementing the agreement and its functioning throughout the next five years.

Palestinians Authority trade department director-general Samir Hulaylah, who heads the joint trade working group with Brodet, agreed, but expressed concern over the difficulties the military authorities are putting up in the way of implementing the agreement.

Hulaylah does not foresee problems with the Treasury. However, he said, "the Defense Ministry has the last word on the agreement and that is a source of worry on our side."

According to Hulaylah, since May the military authorities have complicated the process for businessmen and merchandise to gain access into Israel, increasing the time required from several hours to 20 days. Businessmen need to be over 25 and married to receive a permit, even though, unlike Palestinian workers coming into Israel, they are well-known and respected members of the community, he said.

"We cannot accept an economic agreement which the security forces will turn into an non-implementable agreement," he said.

Four working groups of the Joint Economic Committee dealing with trade, labor, taxes, and agriculture met yesterday and set up their individual agendas. Both sides characterized the deliberations as dealing with the day-to-day running of joint economic affairs. "We are not negotiating again," explained Hulaylah.

Although last week, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat promised Ahmad Quray[Abu-'Ala'], the Palestinian Authority's head of economics and planning, to transfer immediately NIS [new Israeli shekels] 7 million of customs and taxes collected by Israel on behalf of the Palestinians, the money was only transferred yesterday.

State Revenue Director Yoram Gabay said he is optimistic about Palestinian efforts to set up their tax system. He said the Palestinians are already establishing the collection of Value Added Tax in Gaza and purchase taxes in Jericho. Gabay added that in four to five months, the tax collection system will be up and running, although he expects the Palestinians will initially collect about half of what the civil administration was collecting.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Calls On Iraq To Release Prisoners

NC0108120194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT
1 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has called on Iraq to start taking all the necessary measures that will lead to

the return of the Kuwaiti brothers—the prisoners of war and missing persons—whom it is holding, to the State of Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Majid affirmed in a statement issued today on the occasion of the fourth commemoration of the Gulf crisis, which takes place tomorrow, 2 August, that such an initiative on Iraq's part will contribute a great deal toward clearing Arab atmospheres and paving the way before establishing Arab understanding and solidarity, especially since the Arab nation is hoping, in view of the international and regional changes, to live at peace with itself and demonstrate solidarity with its brothers. It is also hoping to cooperate with all sides to entrench and bolster development, stability, and peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the fourth commemoration of the Gulf crisis comes at a time when we are in dire need of restoring Arab solidarity and confidence and clearing the Arab atmosphere to learn from past lessons.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid called on the Arab countries to confirm that what happened on the dawn of 2 August 1990 is a fleeting incident in the history of the Arab nation which cannot be repeated no matter what.

He clarified that since Arab national interests nowadays have acquired greater importance and prominence in light of the transformations and changes the new world order is witnessing—changes that require us to deal with them competently and to exert great human and material potentials—curing the reasons and effects of the Gulf crisis remains the cornerstone for clearing the Arab atmosphere, restoring confidence, and building national interests.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the Arab countries rally round the principles and goals of the Arab League Charter, which is based on respect for the independence, sovereignty, and safety of the territories and systems in all Arab countries. It is also based on stressing the sovereignty of these countries over their natural and economic resources and the non-intervention of others in their internal affairs. In addition, complete adherence to the UN resolutions pertaining to the Gulf crisis is considered a positive factor in diffusing current tensions, be they regarding the families of the Kuwaiti prisoners and the missing persons, or alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people who today are living under extremely harsh and inhuman circumstances.

Iraq Wants Assets Released

NC0108155994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT
1 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has received a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf asking the Arab League General Secretariat [ALGS] to exert efforts to release assets frozen in some Arab countries.

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The Iraqi message, which was conveyed by Dr. Nabil Najm to the ALGS today, referred to a resolution adopted by the Executive Council of the Arab Organization for Education, Science, and Culture in its 59th session in Tunis held from 9 to 14 July. The resolution urged efforts to enable Iraq to secure its requirements of books, periodicals, magazines, and other publications necessary for cultural life.

The message demanded that the resolution be implemented and efforts be made to release the assets to handle the severe shortage of medicine.

The message noted that the Iraqi Health Ministry statistics confirm that the death rate of children below the age of five has risen by 350 percent over the normal death rate and that about 5,228 children died in June. The message indicated that the increasing death rate among children is due to malnutrition, diarrhea, high blood pressure, and diabetes, in addition to lung diseases and malignant tumors.

Arab League Official Views Proposal on Lockerbie

NC2407073894 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic* 0510 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, Arab League delegate to the United Nations, in New York, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd; date not given—from the "Dialogue From Afar" program, recorded]

[Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Ambassador Abu-al-Nasr: Good morning and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-al-Nasr] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Security Council will examine the Lockerbie issue in the coming few days. What is the Arab position on this issue?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The time set for the Security Council to review its resolution imposing some sanctions on the Libyan Jamahiriyyah is the end of the first week of August. Thus, some Arab movement has begun in this regard, particularly following the Arab League Council's decision at its latest meeting to back the Arab proposal to hold the trial of the suspects in the Netherlands. This proposal undoubtedly takes into consideration the numerous positive positions taken by the Libyan Jamahiriyyah of late and its sincere and persistent quest to find a solution to this problem that is acceptable to all parties.

The Jamahiriyyah has indeed accepted the proposal suggested by the Arab League, which was relayed at the time to the Security Council president and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. In the coming days, the Security Council is scheduled to reexamine its earlier resolution imposing sanctions, and this Arab proposal undoubtedly will be on the table. We hope the Security Council seriously considers this proposal, which to a

large extent offers a compromise solution that satisfies all parties, particularly since it was accepted by the Libyan Jamahiriyyah.

The Jamahiriyyah's recent stands have been unquestionably positive. Suffice it here to mention its compliance with the International Court of Justice's resolution on the border dispute with Chad and its immediate implementation of this resolution. So we must admit that Libya's positions are positive. As part of the Arab activity in this regard, the Arab League Secretary General met with the ambassadors of the Security Council permanent member states in Cairo last week and will continue his contacts in this regard to secure a positive reply by the permanent member states to this Arab proposal, which would result in lifting the sanctions on Libya. Libya and its neighbors have been suffering for long as a result of these sanctions.

[Abu-al-Majd] In light of your contacts with the Security Council delegates, did you notice any positive response to the Arab and Libyan proposal to resolve the problem peacefully?

[Abu-al-Nasr] As you know, the delegates here are not decision makers. They just implement the instructions they receive from their capitals. Thus, the important contacts in this regard are being held in the capitals themselves. However, the contacts made here show that several Security Council members have started to realize and admit Libya's positive signals. They want to go along with it and are encouraging its continuance. But unfortunately, some major states are still undecided, somewhat intransigent, and raise legal obstacles about the matter. So we will have to wait and see what the Security Council will do in this regard. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Carlos Reportedly Moves to Lebanon

NC3007090894 *Cairo MENA in English* 0720 GMT 30 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper is focusing on the incrimination yesterday by the Security Council of the recent acts of terrorism in Argentina and Britain. There are reports that international terrorist Carlos was moving from Iran to Lebanon to implement new terrorist acts. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Hizballah Officials Deny Role in Bombings

Al-Tufayli—Charges 'Fabricated'

MM0108145594 *London AL-HAYAH in Arabic* 30 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Tufayli Tells AL-HAYAH: Charges Fabricated by U.S. Intelligence"]

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[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah's former secretary general, has denied the charges made against him regarding his responsibility for the bombing of Jewish centers in Buenos Aires and London. He said that "This is something fabricated by U.S. intelligence."

Al-Tufayli told AL-HAYAH yesterday: "When the incident occurred in Argentina there was a noticeable media campaign against the trend in the region opposed to the peace agreements with the Israeli entity, headed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hizballah, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The call for a Security Council resolution against the Islamic Republic [of Iran] exposes the old intention to fight it and fight the opposition trends."

He said that, in his view, "Making the accusation as soon as the incident occurred shows that the charge is a political one and not one made in the context of finding out who is to blame. Another thing I wish to add in this connection is that I have no knowledge of the existence of an organization by the name of Ansarallah [Followers of God], let alone whether I supervise it or not. Furthermore, under the Islamic Shari'ah, we are not allowed to kill children, women, disabled people, or innocent people, and we have to honor the pledges and charters made between peoples and states. That prevents us from taking any action like that which occurred in Argentina. That is why we do not believe that any Islamic party, be it Hizballah, Hamas, or any other party, had anything to do with the incidents in Argentina or London."

When told that the group which carried out the Argentina operation was his group, he replied: "That is a story fabricated by U.S. intelligence in coordination with Israel's Mossad. There is no truth in it. We are not ashamed or afraid to declare that we fight the enemy in accordance with God's Shari'ah, and we claim responsibility for all operations and bear full responsibility for that. Had we been the ones who struck in Argentina or London, we would have claimed responsibility, but we did not do that. When we act we tell the truth about any action we take."

Asked if any party had asked him for clarification regarding the accusations, he replied: "Nobody has talked to us on this matter."

On Secretary Warren Christopher's statements, he said: "He is talking about the U.S. hegemony plan. Clearly, hegemony cannot be achieved in the face of opposition headed by Iran, and there can be no peace [with Israel] in the face of opposition. A peace faced with such opposition would not survive and would disappear along with those who sign it. The American wants hegemony and that is why he considers himself at war with those who oppose, and he declares that Hizballah must be defeated and Iran fought. That is in full harmony with the spirit of arrogance and tyranny."

On the claims that an Iranian dissident had handed over a list of names of the perpetrators, al-Tufayli said: "You

maybe heard yesterday that the U.S. State Department denied that he was a former or present diplomat, and said that he had been in prison and, therefore, cannot be trusted and his words cannot be taken seriously."

In his Friday sermon yesterday al-Tufayli said: "We do not deny that peace with the Zionists would not prevent us from fighting our Zionist enemy, but we will not be dragged into a military confrontation with the Lebanese Army or the Syrian Army."

Qasim Denies Involvement

MM0108163594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
1 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Na'im Qasim: Hizballah Had Nothing To Do With Explosions"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah's deputy secretary general, has emphasized that "as we have stated repeatedly, Hizballah had nothing to do with the recent explosions in Argentina and Britain." He said: "We carry out operations against the Israeli enemy in the south and in western al-Biqa'. We are proud of that and proud to confront that enemy in order to liberate our territory, but we cannot claim responsibility for things that we have not done. Had we carried out these bombings, we would have said so, for we do not fear our actions nor do we fear our enemy." In a statement he made in reply to a question about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statements, he said: "Christopher should have been given the title of head of an organization for the support of Israeli terrorism, not secretary of state, because he is encouraging reprisals to cover up the failure of his capitulation moves."

He said that "The word terrorism fits the Zionist entity and the United States for the massacres committed by both against people."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Further Comments on Jerusalem Status

Ready for Final Status Talks

JN0108163494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today announced in Gaza that the PLO is ready to start immediate negotiations on the future of Jerusalem.

In a news conference he held today, 'Arafat said Jerusalem is a political issue, a matter of sovereignty, and concerns Muslim and Christian holy places. He said: We insist on starting negotiations now on the final status of the city. He added: The Israelis have opened the Jerusalem file and placed it on the table.

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'Arafat added: The Declaration of Principles agreement stipulates that the final status negotiations should start with the end of the second year after starting the implementation of self-rule. If the Israelis decided to start these negotiations now, then we are also determined to do the same.

At the same time, and as positions on the future of Jerusalem continue to develop, a meeting of the joint Palestinian-Israeli economic committee was held in the city today. This was the first meeting of its kind to be held between the PLO and Israel in Jerusalem. The two sides will discuss taxes, the entry of Palestinian workers into Israel, trade links, and joint ventures.

In Tel Aviv today, Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, minister of planning and international cooperation at the Palestinian National Authority, met with Moshe Shahal, Israel's minister of police and minister of energy, to discuss the release of Palestinian refugees.

Finally, regarding the Jerusalem-based AL-NAHAR which ceased publication to protest the Palestinian National Authority's decision to ban its circulation in the self-rule areas, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said in response to a journalists' question that the paper must obtain a license from the Palestinian National Authority and not from others, and it must respect the laws of the Palestinian National Authority. 'Arafat did not say why the paper was banned in Gaza and Jericho.

Demand Cited

JN0108175294 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1415 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] The fate of Jerusalem, its future, and the threats and violations which encroach on its Arab, Islamic, and Palestinian identity have become the main concern of the Palestinians, particularly President Yasir 'Arafat. Jerusalem's fate and future still top the political agendas of many political departments.

This issue is presented strongly following last week's Washington signing of the Washington Declaration. This declaration grants Jordan a special role concerning the holy places in Jerusalem.

President 'Arafat reiterated in Jericho today the PLO's demand for the Israeli Government to immediately embark on talks on the fate of Jerusalem and its future before the beginning of the talks on the final stage.

Chairman Reiterates Claim

JN0208092794 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0630 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his desire to immediately embark on talks on the future of Jerusalem. Addressing a news conference in Gaza yesterday, President 'Arafat added that Rabin has violated the agreement when he discussed the subject of Jerusalem with

Jordan on 25 July, thus recognizing a Jordanian right to run the Islamic holy places in the city.

President 'Arafat reaffirmed that Jerusalem will be the future capital of the Palestinian state and that the issue of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem cannot be separated from the other political issues.

Paper Cautions Against 'Israeli Trap' on Jerusalem

TA2907180094 *Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic*
28 Jul 94 pp 3, 19

[Editorial: "Jerusalem Is Part of the Occupied Territories"]

[Text] The reference in the Washington Declaration of conciliation between Jordan and Israel to Jordan's connection with the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem aroused the resentment of many of us and triggered an angry reaction, as if Jordan is seeking to replace the Palestinian side in addressing the issue of Jerusalem.

But a calm glance at what happened and at King Husayn's address to the U.S. Congress shows that Jordan aspires to no more than preserving its current role. Moreover, Israel is clearly exploiting this aspiration. This exploitation is epitomized by its attempt to create a rift between the Palestinians and Jordan, as noted in successive statements by Israeli officials.

In fact, no Palestinian views the issue of Jerusalem as merely one of holy sites alone or agrees to deal with this issue on the basis of what Israel says about the city's religious status.

From the outset of the Washington talks, the Palestinian delegation, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, raised the issue of Jerusalem in terms of the city being an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

This fact has been acknowledged and affirmed by UN resolutions, beginning with Security Council Resolution 242 and ending with Resolution 904.

The Palestinian effort must be based on this fact alone—that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories—and the Palestinian negotiating plan must be presented on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

No one believes it is in the interest of our people and cause to divert the process into an argument with Jordan about its subsequent role and its future relationship with the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. Such a role and relationship must be decided between us and Jordan after we establish our sovereignty over Jerusalem. One must be wary of falling into the Israeli trap.

Hamas Leader Offers Cooperation on Jerusalem

TA2907124994 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English* 29 Jul 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by Bill Hutman]

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[Text] Shaykh Jamil Hamami, a leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official, has contacted Fayçal al-Husayni, in charge of PLO affairs in Jerusalem, and proposed coordinating efforts by the two groups towards exerting Palestinian control of eastern Jerusalem.

Hamami told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that he approached al-Husayni out of concern Israel is using the Jordanians to circumvent the Palestinians on the matter of Jerusalem.

Hamami, the director of the Society of Islamic Culture Committee in Jerusalem, is considered the ranking Hamas leader in Jerusalem and among the group's senior leaders in the territories. He was speaking in an interview at his office in the al-Ram neighborhood in northern Jerusalem.

The shaykh said that, while in general he opposes working with the PLO, the differences between the groups may be overlooked when it comes to the "struggle for Jerusalem."

Al-Husayni, who is out of the country could not be reached for comment.

According to Hamami, the PLO official said he agrees the two groups should work together on the Jerusalem issue.

"All Palestinians must join together and express their opposition to what has happened," said Hamami, in reference to this week's Washington Declaration, in which Israel and Jordan officially recognize the Hashemite Kingdom's special status regarding Moslem holy sites in the capital.

He said he approached al-Husayni immediately after the agreement was signed. Only last Friday [22 July], however, the two could not agree on holding a joint press conference on Jerusalem and al-Husayni met reporters only with other PLO officials.

"I have contacted Mr. al-Husayni, and told him that we must unite, on one committee dedicated to Jerusalem," Hamami said.

He said he envisions Moslem leaders from throughout the world on the committee and said an official call for them to join would be made soon.

"Our major goal must be to save Jerusalem, and to make it clear that there can be no peace without Jerusalem," said Hamami. "I'm against cooperation with the PLO in the autonomous areas, because the agreement they have reached with Israel has only created a new form of occupation," Hamami said.

He echoed the hard-line Hamas view opposing its members participating in the upcoming municipal elections in the territories or any elections in the autonomous areas.

Meanwhile, Hamami, considered a close associate of imprisoned Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, said he believes Israel would soon release Yasin.

Further on AL-NAHAR; PFLP Magazine Banned

Official Justifies Closure

TA2907122594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security services, justified the decision to act against the pro-Jordanian newspapers in the territories, claiming it is inconceivable that any country would wage a propaganda campaign against another country via a newspaper. Al-Rujub does not believe that this move harms the freedom of expression, because the opinions expressed in AL-NAHAR and in AKHBAR AL-BALAD are also expressed in other East Jerusalem newspapers, and nobody is the worse off as a result.

Nasir al-Din al-Nashashibi, owner of AKHBAR AL-BALAD, told our correspondent Moti Amir that he closed down his magazine due to threats and after receiving orders from the autonomy leaders. Al-Nashashibi is known to be close to King Husayn.

Editor's Replacement Urged

TA2907172994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Senior Palestinian sources stated today that the distribution of AL-NAHAR in the territories will be permitted once again only if its editor in chief is replaced and it becomes a national newspaper that supports the PLO's line. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that AL-NAHAR was not published today, after Fatah activists announced that they will not allow it to be distributed because of its support for Jordan. [passage omitted]

A statement was issued today in Gaza in this regard. The statement says that AL-NAHAR has not met the conditions for its publication, because since the seventies, it has been customary for the relevant PLO parties to approve the publication of Arabic newspapers, and AL-NAHAR's line contradicts the Palestinian people's pan-Arab interest.

The Popular Struggle Front [PSF] issued a statement today condemning the closure of the Jerusalem-based AL-NAHAR. The statement says that AL-NAHAR is a Palestinian newspaper and a democratic pulpit. Therefore, the PSF rejects AL-NAHAR's closure, regardless of the reasons.

'Abd-Rabbuh Denies Closure

JN3007173594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Culture and Information "Minister" Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by an unidentified correspondent "a short while ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, culture and information minister, we have heard that the AL-NAHAR newspaper was not published over the past two

days, and the paper's editor-in-chief said that the Information Ministry of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has decided to close the paper. What do you have to say about this?

[Abd-Rabbuh] This is untrue. No decision was made by the Information Ministry or any other official Palestinian authority to close the AL-NAHAR newspaper. Such decisions will not even be issued in the future. If the paper decides to stop publication, then this is its own business. However, the official PNA committees are not authorized to make decisions to close newspapers or magazines, or to interfere in the freedom of press and expression.

[Correspondent] It has been said that the paper was denied distribution in Gaza and Jericho as a prelude to the closure decision?

[Abd-Rabbuh] I said that we have no knowledge of this issue. We believe that the freedom of expression and press, as well as the freedom of distribution, constitute a sacred right. Regardless of our differences in opinion with this or that newspaper, this is an issue judged by the public opinion and not by the PNA organs.

[Correspondent] There is also the AKHBAR AL-BALAD newspaper, which was said to have been closed in accordance with a PNA decision?

[Abd-Rabbuh] Where is it published?

[Correspondent] AKHBAR AL-BALAD is published in Jerusalem by journalist Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashib.

[Abd-Rabbuh] I have not seen this paper before. Neither have I heard that there was a decision in this regard.

[Correspondent] So, there was no PNA or Information Ministry decision to close either AL-NAHAR or AKHBAR AL-BALAD. This is what you are saying, Mr. Information Minister?

[Abd-Rabbuh] As far as I am concerned, the Information Ministry has not at all made any such decision regarding any paper or publication. At the same time, I would like to say that the Information Ministry has no knowledge of any decision on the closure, seizure, or distribution.

[Correspondent] Thank you Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, culture and information minister in the PNA.

[Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

Journalists Braced for 'Battle'

JN3107104294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31
Jul 94 p 2

[Report by staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Restrictions imposed by the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that led to the closure of two Jerusalem-based publications are being described

by some Palestinian journalists and human rights activists in the occupied territories as violation of the freedom of the press.

"There have been cases of Palestinian journalists being harassed or pursued on several occasions," by the PNA said Basim 'Id, a Palestinian journalist who is one of few Palestinians to publish articles in left-wing Israeli newspapers. A columnist for the daily al-Nahar that folded Saturday [30 July] on orders of PNA President Yasir 'Arafat, Mr. 'Id said that the Palestinian journalists community was "bracing itself" for a battle for press freedoms with the new authority.

"This is the beginning and the war for press freedoms is part of the process. The new government comes from environments which are oppressive and undemocratic. Thus they have brought with them their experience of the Arab governments in their dealings with the press," said Mr. 'Id who is also a field coordinator for Bet Zelem—an Israeli human rights organisation that gathers information in the occupied territories.

"We hoped this would not happen but we almost expected it," said Mr. 'Id after the al-Nahar was ordered closed by the PNA Friday.

"We will fight this closure order on all the levels," said Ikram Sha'ban, al-Nahar journalist and director of distribution. "Al-Nahar is published in Jerusalem and Jerusalem is not under the PNA jurisdiction yet—thus Mr. 'Arafat may confiscate our paper in Gaza and Jericho—but he won't be able to do so in Nabulus and Ramallah nor in Jerusalem," Ms. Sha'ban said, in a telephone interview.

The closure order, say Palestinian journalists, will only increase sales of the paper—since "Palestinians are traditionally opposed to any existing authority."

At the moment there are only two Arabic language dailies in the occupied territories and self-rule areas. The two, al-Quds which was traditionally seen as close to the PLO, and al-Nahar which was seen as closer to Jordan, are both threatened by the PNA, according to journalists from the occupied territories.

To counter the relatively independent line of the existing press which also includes almost a dozen weeklies, a new daily, al-Aqsa, has been founded under the direct auspices of the PNA.

"The al-Aqsa is the mouthpiece of the PNA. It is like a government statement every morning," said Mr. 'Id. "We don't mind if such a newspaper exists but not to replace all the other papers." "Even al-Quds has been under PNA pressure and the authorities are trying to squeeze it out of circulation," said Ms. Sha'ban.

To counter the closure of al-Nahar for what the PNA describes as contradicting "the national interest of the Palestinian people," al-Nahar and al-Quds plan an aggressive marketing campaign in the occupied territories.

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"We have decided on a distribution and marketing campaign that will include Gaza as well," said Ms. Sha'ban who was recently appointed director of distributions in addition to her job as reporter.

Palestinian journalists say they will urge Palestinian human rights organisations as well as international non-governmental organisations to pressure the PNA into a more "democratic" stand regarding press freedoms.

"We will use all methods to assure that we have a chance to live in the freedom we fought for so long," said Ms. Sha'ban.

Several Palestinian weeklies were closed down by the Israeli authorities in the past, and now Palestinians fear that the Palestinian authorities will "merge the undemocratic tendencies of both the Arab governments towards their home press and the Israeli repression of Palestinian freedom of opinion," said Mr. 'Id.

"We are getting ready for a parallel fight, the fight for independence and the fight for democracy."

The Paris-based press defence group Reporters Sans Frontiers (Reporters without Borders—RSF) protested on Friday against the ban. "We are shocked by the unjustified measure taken against the daily al-Nahar and demand it be rescinded," RSF said in a communique.

The measure also affected the weekly Akhbar al-Balad but RSF made no mention of that action.

Ban To Be Lifted; Editor To Quit

TA3107051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] The newspaper AL-NAHAR, which was closed down last week by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat because of its pro-Jordanian stand, will resume publication with a different editorial slant. Palestinian sources said an agreement was reached between Palestinian Authority officials and editorial staff. According to the agreement, the editor in chief, 'Uthman al-Hallaq, will be replaced and an ad will appear on the front page announcing that from now on the paper will serve Palestinian interests. Similar contacts were held with the editors of the weekly AKHBAR AL-BALAD.

'Arafat Orders Continued Closure

TA3107124694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has issued an order not to renew publication of AL-NAHAR, which was issued in East Jerusalem, for the time being. Our correspondent Moti Amir says 'Arafat was angered by reports that an arrangement for the newspaper's continued publication was reached with the owners, and he ordered Jibril al-Rujub, the official in charge of security services in

Jericho, to make sure the newspaper remains closed for the time being because it is pro-Jordanian.

AL-NAHAR employees said that the newspaper was shut down on orders from 'Uttman al-Hallaq, its editor and owner, after consultations with Jordan, and that they will have to take unpaid leave.

PFLP Magazine Banned

JN0108080694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 29

[Text] The Palestinian National Authority has banned KAN'AN magazine from circulation in Gaza and Jericho. Palestinian sources told AL-RA'Y that the magazine is the mouthpiece of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Sha'th: Crossings To Be Handed Over 'Next Month'

JN3107085994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of Planning and International Cooperation, who heads the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks with the Israelis, has stated that the Palestinian side is expected to take over the Rafah and Allenby Bridge crossing points next month. He added that the arrangements at these crossing points by the two sides will be discussed during the meeting that will be held between the Palestinian and Israeli sides today.

Dr. Sha'th announced the names of the officers who will be responsible for the crossing points: They are: Major Nazmi Muhanna, director for the Rafah crossing point from the Palestinian side; Major Fawzi 'Awdah, director of the Allenby Bridge; and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahman Barakat, director general of the crossing points.

Al-Sa'ih Opposes Convening Gaza PNC Session

JN0208081294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Aug 94 pp 28, 25

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] AL-RA'Y has learned that Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, who resigned in May 1993, has joined a political movement, which includes a number of Palestinian figures from the PNC and elsewhere, calling against the convocation of the PNC's 21st session in Gaza.

It is noteworthy that Shaykh al-Sa'ih's resignation becomes effective in the next meeting of the PNC, which has not met for four years. The PNC held its 20th session in Algiers in September 1991.

Palestinian parliamentary sources told AL-RA'Y that the movement is led by Shaykh al-Sa'ih; Lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, former vice chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Bassam al-Shak'ah, former mayor of Nabulus; Shafiq al-Hut, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Yahya Hammudah; and Khalid al-Fahum.

Algeria

FIS Executive Committee Sacks Haddam, Zaoui

LD0208104294 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT
2 Aug 94

[Text] Athens, Aug. 2, IRNA—Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in a statement Tuesday said the military-backed regime in the country has increased its repressive measures to terrorize the citizens and urged the international community to put pressure on it to stop human rights violations.

"The volume of repression imposed by the military group in Algeria against innocent citizens is on constant increase aimed at frightening the people as it is using all means of repression including planes, napalm etc.," said a statement in Arabic issued by FIS' executive committee abroad.

The statement, faxed to IRNA from somewhere in Europe, called on the Algerian people to remain steadfast to defend their rights. "We urge the international public opinion and international organisations to put the necessary pressure on the ruling military group in Algeria so that the dangerous human rights violations are stopped," it said.

The committee announced the removal of two of its 12 members, Anouar Haddam and Ahmed Zaoui, because "they preferred to work outside the FIS framework." It said any statement issued "by these two brothers will not represent the official position of FIS."

The committee, FIS' only legal representation abroad, said the Front represented the "shortest way to achieve the goal for the creation of an Islamic state in Algeria." It said it welcomes the recent announcement by Islamic groups in Algeria towards uniting the ranks of the mujahideen in the framework of an Islamic Salvation Army.

FIS is struggling for the creation of an Islamic state in Algeria after the western-backed military regime cancelled general elections won by Islamists and took power by force two years ago.

Escalation of Assassination Campaign Reported

94P50171 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 94 pp 1,4

[Text] Tensions rose in an unprecedented manner in Algeria yesterday resulting in the killing of eight foreigners, three Algerian civilians, one extremist, and seven police officers. A large number of security men were wounded as a result of the detonation of a booby-trapped car. In a phone conversation with AL-HAYAH, Western sources in the Algerian capital linked the recent acts of violence, which targeted foreigners, to the final communique of the summit of industrial [G-7] countries in Naples that supported the Algerian government, its economic reforms, and its decision to talk with "the groups which reject terrorism." Algerian security sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH that operations against foreigners began yesterday with the killing of a Polish woman in Rouiba (east of the capital); and then, in

the suburb of Oued Ouchaya, armed men disguised in police uniforms attacked a small bus carrying four Russians and a Romanian who worked in the oil industry, leading to their death. Yesterday afternoon, armed men opened fire on the al-Qaysariyah Restaurant in the Algerian capital, resulting in the death of two Yugoslavians and two Algerians as well as a large number of wounded. When the security forces arrived at the scene of the incident, a booby-trapped car that had been placed near the restaurant detonated resulting in a large number of injuries, some of them serious. The same sources stated that five police officers were killed yesterday morning in a suburb of the capital; an Algerian woman whose mother is French had her throat slit by unknown assailants; thirty Italians in the Mohammedia suburb (near El-Harrach) were saved from an ambush set for them because of the presence of policemen who opened fire "resulting in the death of one of the terrorists." These sources said that the attack on the police unit in Chlef led to the death of two members. Furthermore, the sources stated that Captain Lazreg who absconded with a helicopter last week to the mountains "destroyed 11 helicopters on the ground and not two aircraft as had been previously reported by the news media," pointing out that the official news talks about 10,000 dead among civilians and military during 1993. In Rome (AFP), Mirko Tremaglia, the chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the Italian chamber of deputies, announced yesterday in statements carried by ANSA that two members of the group which killed seven Italian sailors last Thursday had been arrested. The agency reported that Tremaglia made this announcement following his meeting in Algeria with Algerian Minister of the Interior Meziane Cherif. Tremaglia added that their confessions allowed Algerian authorities to identify their accomplices. According to statements made by the Algerian minister, the members of the group belong to the Islamic Salvation Front" (FIS). The Italian official arrived in Algeria last Saturday "to directly ascertain" the condition of the Italian community in this country following the killing of seven Italian sailors on board a ship anchored in a port near Jijel (360 kilometers east of Algiers). It is reported that Tremaglia met last Saturday with the Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri then returned to Italy yesterday morning.

Municipality Leader Assassinated in Algiers

LD0108122494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The security services announced in a statement today that Mustapha Bounata, chairman of the executive delegation of Oued Koreiche municipality, which is part of the Bab el Oued district of Algiers, was shot dead this morning.

The victim was 47 years old and the father of four children. He was, until the murder, playing a leading role in the project to rehouse 100 families in Oued Koreiche district. [passage omitted]

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Egypt**Al-Baz on Syrian-Israeli Talks, Jerusalem Issue***NC0208084494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT
2 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated Israel's view of Syria's approach to the peace talks does not necessarily reflect the actual course adopted by Damascus. He indicated that Israel understands the Syrian approach based on Damascus' desire to negotiate with the United States as a mediator and does not want direct talks with Israel.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, al-Baz said Syria believes there was a specific framework for the negotiations set up at the Madrid conference. There were bilateral talks attended by the cosponsors of the conference and also multilateral talks. He indicated that there is no need for an Israeli decision on a new format for negotiations.

Al-Baz said Israel wants to gradually disregard the Madrid framework for a peaceful solution while Syria sees in this framework a kind of guarantee because it leads to an international presence obliging the parties to adhere to a specific framework. Syria also believes that ousting the United States from the talks would involve a change in the formula for negotiations agreed upon at the Madrid conference.

On Jordan's historic rights in Jerusalem, al-Baz said we do not want to make people more sensitive about this issue. However, we stress that any discussions about Jerusalem should not be done piecemeal because this creates sensitivities and jeopardizes legal rights and rules. He demanded that the Jerusalem issue be tackled in all of its aspects, including the legal status of East Jerusalem, access to the whole city, and supervision of places of worship and religious and archaeological sites.

Al-Baz said the Arab parties should not compete over who should run the holy places. He said if the issue of Jerusalem is submitted for discussion now, the discussion will be incomplete, not comprehensive, and not in the interest of the Arab parties.

Al-Baz explained Egypt is trying to maintain the "unity of the channel" [wihdat al-qanah] that works on the Syrian-Israeli track and that Egypt is not conveying formulas and ideas between Syria and Israel. Egypt is giving advice to both sides. It especially advises Israel to move closer to Syria's stand and draws its attention to the importance of movement on the Syrian track to permit progress on the other tracks.

Libyan 'Prime Minister' Arrives for Meeting*NC0108182694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT
1 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, the Libyan prime minister, arrived in

Cairo this evening on a four-day visit leading a delegation to the Joint Higher Committee meetings that will begin tomorrow, Tuesday.

The Libyan prime minister is accompanied by secretaries and ministers of the General People's Committees for foreign liaison, international cooperation, maritime wealth, justice, public security, housing and utilities, industry, education, and youth. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee Begins Meeting*NC0208103794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT
2 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—The Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee began its meetings in the Cabinet offices this morning cochaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and 'Abd-al-Majid al-Mabruk al-Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee.

Coordination With Iraq To Lift Sanctions Alleged*JN3007124294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Jul 94 p 27*

[Report by Fathi Khattab]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-DUSTUR has learned from an official Egyptian source—who asked to remain anonymous—that there is Egyptian-Iraqi coordination through diplomatic channels to lift the economic sanctions on Iraq. The source added that Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, received official Egyptian instructions to work toward lifting the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people and to direct Egypt's moves within the international organizations and its institutions toward supporting Iraqi attempts to end the economic sanctions.

The reliable official source added that Egypt supports the Iraqi contacts aimed at ending the economic sanctions despite the protests of some Arab countries and Israel. The source said that Egypt responded to the viewpoints of Arab opposition—conveyed through letters during visits by Arab delegations—by saying that Egypt's stand is firm vis-a-vis the suffering of the Iraqi people. Lifting the suffering and ending the tragic effects of the economic siege has become one of the mechanisms of Egyptian diplomacy to stop the destruction of the forces of the Iraqi Arab people.

The Egyptian source said: Egypt's stand within the Arab League aims at achieving the highest level of Arab coordination to lift the siege imposed on Iraq, which has complied with all the conditions stipulated by the Security Council resolution. Iraqi-Kuwaiti differences over prisoners and border demarcation are on the periphery of Security Council demands related to lifting the blockade. Such differences, the source added, should be discussed within the Arab framework and the Arab League. [passage omitted]

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Mubarak Reviews ICPD Preparations With Aides

NC3107105394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT
31 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that President Mubarak met this morning with the Higher Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]. During the meeting, President Mubarak reviewed the work and decisions of the committee in charge of supervising the preparations for the conference. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi submitted a report on the arrangements made by ministries and state agencies in accordance with the specifications of and the agreements concluded with the UN. Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of state for population affairs, reviewed the preparations for the conference and the working papers to be submitted.

Al-Sharif noted that during the meeting, President Mubarak emphasized that each country is absolutely free to accept, reject, or express reservations about conference recommendations that may not be in line with the heavenly messages or that conflict with the society's prevailing traditions. Al-Sharif added that Egypt will submit to the conference well-defined papers that fully comply with the values of Islam and the heavenly messages and reject whatever runs counter to the rules of normal life and social ethics.

During the meeting, Dr. Mahran pointed out that the ICPD is not an Egyptian conference, but a conference convened by the UN in Egypt. The United Nations, he added, will pay all the costs of the conference, which is to be held in Cairo in appreciation of Egypt's role in confronting overpopulation, its history, location, and international prestige. The information minister pointed out that the conference will discuss a number of issues on population, development, environment, health, and other issues. The conference shows the importance the international community attaches to population and development affairs, he added. [passage omitted]

Al-Azhar Imam Briefed

NC0108164194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Jul 94
p 10

[Report by Bahirah Mukhtar]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, grand imam of al-Azhar, received Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of state for population and family affairs in his office yesterday. They reviewed all the activities and preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] and UN interest in solving the population problem during the next 20 years.

The minister presented the draft recommendations approved by the ICPD's preparatory committees. The most important of these recommendations deal with

constant human and economic development, health and education care, women's role in caring for the family, family culture, problems of contemporary diseases such as AIDS, the problems of internal population movement and resulting problems such as slums, the problem of international emigration and its dangers, including the chance that it might spark wars, and the problems of poverty and unemployment.

Dr. Mahran told his eminence the imam that not one recommendation to be presented to the conference violates public morals or encourages the use of abortion as a means of family planning and said he noted that there is a political background to many of the objections to some of the recommendations that have started to appear and this could cause grave consequences. He said that Egypt has a clear policy on family planning, namely, full commitment to Egyptians' religions. He added: We will not base our policies on other religions or on political trends that are not ours. But we must realize that we are dealing with an international conference organized by the United Nations therefore there is scope for dialogue. This does not mean abiding by views that differ from our stipulated policies.

The minister said: Our family planning policy is the same as that pursued by other Islamic countries such as Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, and Iran. We rely in this on successive fatwas [religious edicts] issued by the al-Azhar, starting with those of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid Salim in 1937, through Shaykh Shaltut and Shaykh Hasan Ma'mun, to the fatwas of His Eminence Imam Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq and His Eminence Egypt's Mufti Dr. Sayyid Tantawi.

Foreign Minister's Adviser Returns From RSA

NC3107132294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1136 GMT
31 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, political adviser to the Foreign Minister, returned to Cairo from the Republic of South Africa [RSA] today after a four-day visit.

He said he had conveyed a message from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to RSA Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo on Egypt's wish to develop its relations with South Africa in various spheres. The message also dealt with the importance of setting up joint projects to enhance cooperation between the two countries and back the private sector in developing this cooperation.

He said there was agreement on the importance of coordinating between Egypt and South Africa, especially on African and world issues of common interest to both countries. He added that they also discussed ways to boost cooperation in culture and tourism.

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Sidqi Chairs Economic Group Meeting, Comments*NC0108135994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT
1 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—The Ministerial Economic Group today held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The delegates reviewed the economic reform's executive measures in its second phase, the progress made in reducing the state budget deficit, and the Egyptian pound's relatively steady exchange rate.

The group also reviewed the outcome of talks between an Egyptian economic delegation and IMF officials in Washington recently and discussed preparations for the next negotiations with the IMF delegation, negotiations that are due to be held in Cairo soon.

In statements to journalists after the meeting, Dr. Sidqi said there is agreement among Egypt and the IMF and World Bank on Egypt's economic reforms and that there are no problems regarding the exchange rate. He referred to the World Bank's latest report on the success and stability achieved by the Egyptian economic reform program.

Education Minister Views Islamic Veil, Curricula*NC0108172394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT
1 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has affirmed that no female student will be barred from school for wearing the veil under any circumstances.

He said the Education Ministry is eager that the parent of a veiled female student should know that his daughter wears this dress voluntarily and out of full conviction and that she is not forced to wear the dress.

These remarks were made during the education minister's meeting today with Awqaf Ministry imams and ulema in the presence of Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub and al-Azhar University President Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Shaykh.

The education minister said the standardization of school uniform was aimed at confronting attempts by some extremist teachers to force female students to wear particular clothes to express a political identity, not for religious value.

He explained that the reason behind the Education Ministry's decision stipulating that the parent send a letter to the school stating his consent to his daughter wearing the veil was to ascertain that no one is forcing the female student to wear the dress and that the parent is aware of the situation. He said: Our aim was to prevent some terrorist groups forcing female students to wear a particular uniform without the parents' knowledge and that these groups went beyond this measure to arrange secret marriages for the students.

He noted that a national conference will be held soon to upgrade the Arabic language to develop the teaching of this course.

He pointed out that Egypt's cooperation with foreign agencies to develop the educational process contains no interference from foreign experts in any issue concerning the teaching of Arabic, religious studies, or history. He added that these experts' role is confined to technical aspects of educational techniques and ways of preparing curricula and editing school books.

The education minister said a committee of senior Muslim ulema recently revised all religious textbooks at various educational stages and made sure they are safe and sound.

New Oil Production Company Formed*NC3107143494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT
31 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has decided to form a new joint company between the Egyptian General Petroleum Authority and the Canadian Occidental Company. The new company will develop the ('Ushsh al-Mallahah) Field in the Gulf of Suez, which was discovered recently by the Canadian company.

The new company, named "Mogabetco," will use the production facilities available in the area to implement its development plan and add its output to the production map in Egypt. The company's daily output is expected to reach 1,500 barrels of good quality oil.

Libya**Joint Search for al-Kikhya Agreed With Egypt***MM0208094694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
31 Jul 94 p4*

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Libyan Justice Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: Opposition May Be Behind al-Kikhya's Disappearance"]

[Excerpts] Tripoli—Muhammad al-Hijazi, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security (minister), has revealed an Egyptian-Libyan agreement to form a joint security committee to search for Mansur al-Kikhya, the former Libyan foreign minister who disappeared in Cairo in mysterious circumstances last December.

Al-Hijazi told AL-HAYAH: "The committee will talk to a number of people who met with al-Kikhya in Paris before he embarked on his journey to Cairo, in search of evidence that would help in finding out what happened to him." [passage omitted]

He did not rule out the possibility that the Libyan opposition "was responsible for al-Kikhya's disappearance as a score-settling move." He emphasized that

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al-Kikhya wished to go back to Libya before he was kidnapped, that he had told this to a number of Libyan officials, since Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi had said that Libya "would welcome its sons at any time." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Culture and Information (minister), has criticized "President Bill Clinton's continuation of his predecessor George Bush's policy" on the Lockerbie crisis.

He told AL-HAYAH that "the U.S. anti-Libya policy is unjustified and puzzling, particularly as Libya has done everything it could to find a solution to the Lockerbie crisis."

He added: "We had expected President Clinton, a Democrat, to correct George Bush's mistake and turn over a new leaf with Libya based on mutual respect and correction of the mistakes of the Republicans who bombed the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 on suspicion of Libyan responsibility for the Berlin night club incident, for which German courts exonerated Libya."

He continued: "We had expected the Democrats, who raise the banner of human rights and defend minorities, to apologize to Libya for the aggression and to open a direct dialogue with us, but Libyan expectations have been dashed upon the unjustified U.S. insistence on escalation."

Technical Cooperation Accord Signed With Cairo

LD0108191694 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT
1 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An agreement was signed today for technical cooperation in the area of popular control [as received] and follow-up between the General People's Committee for Popular Control and Follow-up and the Central Computer Service in sisterly Egypt.

The agreement was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Popular Control and Follow-up and by Fekhri 'Abbas the head of the Central Computer Service in Egypt within the pattern of the steps towards unionist integration between the Great Jamahiriya and sisterly Egypt.

The agreement stipulates the strengthening of cooperation in the areas of control to progress forward towards the achievement of integration. The agreement stipulates also the exchange of visits and meetings between experts, the exchange of ideas and consultations regarding the control.

The agreement also stipulates the organization of training sessions and technical programmes.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on U.S. Dialogue, Recognizing Israel

JN0108200694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1720 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Report by Muhammad 'Allan from Khartoum]

[Text] Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has disclosed that his country asked the United States—during the dialogue opened between the two countries recently—to delete the name of Sudan from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism. He added that the United States asked his government to end Khartoum's relations with terrorist acts, saying the United States asked Sudan to abandon acts which Sudan did not commit in the first place.

Al-Bashir noted in his statements to Radio Monte Carlo in Khartoum that a simultaneous dialogue is being conducted with European countries. He added that this dialogue cannot be assessed now because it is still in the beginning. He expressed his disappointment that the dialogue with the United States has not developed, saying it is based on accusations. He said: The suspect is innocent until proven guilty. In today's world, however, the suspect is guilty until proven innocent.

Al-Bashir condemned the terrorist acts committed by fundamentalists in Egypt and Algeria, noting that, as a Muslim, he cannot justify assassinations and indiscriminate explosions.

Speaking about relations with Egypt, al-Bashir said that he is working to stop the deterioration of relations. He also expressed concern about the distinguished relations with Egypt, hoping that conflict between the two countries over the Hala'ib border triangle will be resolved within the bilateral framework so relations will remain normal.

Turning to relations with the Gulf states, the Sudanese president expressed optimism over their future in light of the genuine calls for bypassing differences, including the calls made by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates.

Asked whether Sudan is ready to establish relations with Israel if a comprehensive and just peace is achieved, al-Bashir said: Yes, when a comprehensive and just peace is achieved. However, al-Bashir added that such a peace will not be achieved before the Palestinian people achieve their full rights to establish their Palestinian state on their soil, including Jerusalem. He said: As long as Israel continues to occupy Arab territory, we will not recognize Israel.

Regarding the talks between the Sudanese Government and the rebels in the South—which were concluded in Nairobi yesterday evening—al-Bashir affirmed his country's commitment to peace throughout the country, noting that he held contacts with heads of neighborly states to achieve the objective of peace.

Minister Defends Recourse to UN Over Hala'ib

MM0208084094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
30 Jul 94 p6

[Report on interview with Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat by Muhammad 'Allam in Khartoum; date not given]

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[Text] Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat has described the border dispute with Egypt over the Hala'ib triangle as "the bitter option," and said that he considered his government's recourse to international arbitration to be "better than using arms to settle the dispute." He said that "certain circles which wanted the triangle to be a hotbed of tension have aborted the results of the meeting held between President Husni Mubarak and President 'Umar al-Bashir in Cairo last year." He said that, in his view, settlement of the dispute "is extremely easy...through the revival of the joint committee under the cochairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH in Khartoum, he said that the fundamentalist movements "are part of the fabric of the nation." He criticized the "attempt by some Arab states to generalize the cases of what they call terrorism and extremism." He also criticized what he called "the Arab silence about southern Sudan," and he accused the Arab League of "playing the part of mediator on the Lockerbie issue, not the role of protagonist of the case." He accused Egypt of "not being interested in dialogue and of escalating on the ground."

The Sudanese minister said that 'Amr Musa "did not come to Khartoum to revive the work of the joint committee on the pretext that he was busy and had more pressing matters to attend to at a time when numerous steps were being taken on the ground undermining Sudanese sovereignty over the triangle." He said that Cairo's position denoted "no interest in dialogue." He added: "We have been very patient."

He also said that the "Sudanese Government appreciates the special and eternal relations with Egypt," but added that "the official Egyptian attitude is one of disregard and daily escalation on the ground in the triangle, which some circles want to be a hotbed of tension."

He described his government's recourse to the Security Council, the OAU, and the Arab League as the "bitter option," pointing out that Sudan's memoranda to these organizations "were not complaints or an internationalization of the issue but merely memoranda explaining the facts.... Referring the dispute to international arbitration, when necessary, is the best way of achieving an amicable settlement if such a settlement proves impossible through direct dialogue."

Sabdarat wondered about the criticism made of Sudan for going to the Security Council which, he said, "is not strange and not some kind of escalation." He asked: "Why does Egypt accept arbitration with Israel on Tabah and reject it with Sudan over Hala'ib?... We only went to the Security Council after meetings and repeated appeals."

He said that "recourse to international arbitration and to a third party is better than recourse to battles to settle the issue." He stressed that "resorting to arms would be unacceptable to the Sudanese people and the Egyptian

people." He stressed that "Sudan still hopes for dialogue and only considered arbitration because it was forced to do so."

The Sudanese minister said that going to the Security Council was "a difficult thing to do." He added: "But we have a responsibility to our people and it is our duty to let them know what is going on now."

In reply to a question, Sabdarat criticized the "attempt of some Arab states to generalize the issue of terrorism." He said: "These states, which have internal problems, have made a mistake." He said that, in his view, "the solution to what some countries call terrorism and extremism is in these states and organizations.... The solution is that these regimes should reconcile themselves and open the way to dialogue instead of repression."

He said the media in these states are "unfair" because "anyone who has rights is labeled by them as an extremist."

He added that "these movements they call extremist movements are a part of the nation's fabric, and it would be better for these regimes to find a common language of dialogue instead of repressing and terrorizing these movements."

Sabdarat accused the Arab League of "behaving, in connection with the Lockerbie crisis, as a mediator and not as a protagonist in the case." He said that the Lockerbie crisis "did not have to be that complicated," adding that "had the Arab world taken a united stand, it would have forced the West to understand Libya's position and proposed solutions."

Asked about Sudan's position on the map of Middle East regional order, he replied that "the Arab order is not even complete yet for us to begin to think about the entire region." He said that speaking of a Middle East order "is a move to overtake other steps and an attempt to impose a fait accompli and normalize relations with Israel before the achievement of a comprehensive peace based on a complete Arab concept and not on separate grounds as the case is now."

Industry Minister on Cooperation With Iraq, Yemen

JN3007113194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Jul 94 p 27

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Majid] Observers notice the existence of political coordination and a joint desire to establish firm cooperation between Khartoum, Baghdad, and Sanaa. Is this desire heading toward achieving economic and industrial integration between Sudan, Iraq, and Yemen?

[Mustafa] In terms of stands, especially after the Gulf war, Khartoum and Sanaa believed that Iraq was right. After the military aggression against the fraternal

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country, Khartoum and Sanaa had a unified vision of how the problem should be solved. They agreed that the solution should come from within the Arab fold and that any other means to solve the crisis would lead to an aggression not only against Iraq but also against the entire Arab nation. This is exactly what happened. It is natural that this vision of the future makes it inevitable for them—as they proceed from a single basis—to seek joint cooperation in all walks of life for the sake of the Arab nation's dignity and unity.

[Abd-al-Majid] What results were achieved from this cooperation?

[Mustafa] There are many fields for technical cooperation between Sudan and Iraq, especially in terms of benefiting from Iraq's expertise in construction and production. God willing, after the embargo is lifted, these relations will grow stronger on all economic, social, political, and intellectual fronts. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-Majid] Last week His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister signed a document to end the state of war. What is Sudan's stand toward this step?

[Mustafa] We support the choice of the Arab people in any country as long as this choice serves the interest of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-Majid] Reports say that the United States' condition for improving relations with Sudan is to achieve progress in the peace talks.

[Mustafa] We admit that the United States is a superpower. Our relations are based on maintaining the sovereignty of every country. We are not attacking the United States or harming its interests, neither in Sudan nor in the region. However, we will not allow the United States to interfere, impose a certain trend, or rob us of our political will.

At the same time, we always welcome the United States if it wishes to offer any help or mediation or to facilitate resolving problems in Sudan whether these problems are between some renegades from the south and the government, or any other kinds of problems. The United States expressed its desire to cooperate in order to solve this issue within the framework of Sudan's unity. We welcomed that. We also welcomed the U.S. President's envoy as an observer to the negotiations.

As for our relations with the United State, we seek to have cordial relations with every country based on cooperation and joint interest based on the fact that each country should enjoy its individuality and political independence. [passage omitted]

Garang's Aide Interviewed on SPLM Policy

NC0208101094 Cairo AL-ARABI in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 12

[Interview with Yusuf Kuwa, deputy chairman of the Executive Council of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, by Amani al-Tawil—date and place not given]

[Text] In a historic announcement in Cairo, the John Garang-led SPLM made a temporary retreat from its self-determination demand, pending the convocation of the National Constitutional Conference. The SPLM and the Democratic Unionist Party made a breakthrough toward the preservation of Sudanese unity. Last week, various Sudanese political leaders welcomed the move. A new round of talks between the government and the SPLM failed to produce results as of the time this interview went to print. This adds significance to the following interview we conducted with Yusuf Kuwa, number three in the SPLM and deputy chairman of the SPLM Executive Council.

[Al-Tawil] Considering your military position, what do you expect the current round of talks to yield?

[Kuwa] I do not see anything new on the horizon. The government thinks that with its military victories and the towns it captured it will be able to force the SPLM to surrender. This is absolutely untrue. Towns are of little value in guerrilla warfare. These towns were once in our hands and before that they were in the hands of a succession of Sudanese governments. The government is not serious about peace. This has become clear in the talks. Those who want peace should begin by observing a cease-fire as a gesture of goodwill.

We seek to achieve a democratic and secular Sudan, a society that respects ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity. This is our agenda. Failing to achieve this, self-determination would be our only remaining alternative.

[Al-Tawil] The government rejects secularization and self-determination. Your positions are therefore quite distant. What is the point, then, in sitting at the negotiating table?

[Kuwa] Only to avoid being accused of obstructing the peace talks. The government will not be serious in seeking peace unless there is a military balance between the two sides. This we do not now have, but expect to have within the next few months.

[Al-Tawil] How?

[Kuwa] By restoring the morale of the fighters and putting the southern house in order. The SPLM has held its first constitutional conference since the collapse of the Socialist bloc. The disintegration of the Socialist bloc caused a split within the SPLM in 1991. One breakaway group was flirting with the U.S. Administration. More splits occurred. Meanwhile, the government received assistance from Iran. Under these circumstances, raising the fighters' moral is crucial.

[Al-Tawil] But you cannot fight with bare hands. Have you received military assistance?

[Kuwa] I am not at liberty to go into details, but the support we have will change our work radically in the near future.

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[Al-Tawil] How do you intend to put, to use your words, the southern house in order?

[Kuwa] We have held the first constitutional conference of the SPLM since it was launched 11 years ago. Our aim was to restructure the SPLM and separate its military from its civilian wings. The SPLM now has a judiciary and a National Liberation Council with 183 members. The latter spawned a 27-member Executive Council responsible for civilian areas.

[Al-Tawil] In other words, you have formed a breakaway government?

[Kuwa] This is not true. We have called our civilian branch the National Liberation Council and assigned various responsibilities, such as supplies and information, to certain people so as to run the affairs of the southern population—an arrangement reminiscent of the PLO's former structure. How can we form a government when we do not have the necessary means?

[Al-Tawil] Where is your population, when the towns are in government hands?

[Kuwa] The towns are empty. We are in control of the entire countryside. One can walk unchallenged from Kurdufan to the al-Nubah Mountains. Representatives from these areas took part in the SPLM conference and then went home.

[Al-Tawil] You have retracted your self-determination bid on the condition that all Sudanese forces take part in a National Constitutional Conference. Why had you demanded self-determination in the first place and why have you changed your mind?

[Kuwa] We have been deluged with slogans raised by dissidents who favor secession because of the ordeals inflicted upon the south and the holy war waged against us by a government which views our people as atheists. The Islamic Front, before it came to power, called for the partition of the south. 'Umar al-Bashir made a statement to this effect, but later retracted it. The question we had to answer back then was: Why not accept secession and end the fighting?

Still, we proposed a confederation at the Abuja talks. The conditions set for this confederation were separate armies and separate foreign representation, which practically means secession.

I would like to note that southerners promoted the idea of federalism in the fifties as well, and were accused of being partitionists. The same happened again when they asked for confederation and for self-determination.

Our demand for two armies is confined to the transitional phase. These two armies can merge later in accordance with agreements and plans.

We gave up our quest for self-determination in order to achieve the highest degree of coordination with other opposition forces in the coming phase. We supported the convocation of the National Constitutional Conference in the

hope that it would draw up a clear vision of the country's problems and address the unequal distribution of wealth. We seek to preserve Sudan's unity. We are for unity so long as all opposition parties work seriously for that objective, in the sense of providing real support on the battlefield. Unity can only be achieved by deeds, not words.

[Al-Tawil] Would a joint armed struggle bring you and other opposition groups closer together?

[Kuwa] Of course. When a northerner crouches beside you in the ditch, treats your wounds, or teaches your kids, this is the first step toward unity.

'Central Leadership' for Opposition Urged

MM2807125794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
28 Jul 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Sudan: Unionist Party Demands 'Central Leadership' for Sudanese Opposition"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-HAYAH—The Sudanese opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has organized a political seminar in London, in which representatives of Sudanese opposition parties took part. It focused on the opposition's position.

At the meeting, which was held on the evening of the day before yesterday, the party stressed the need "for an authoritative central leadership with a known name to take charge of the Democratic National Grouping."

Dr. 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the Ummah Party; DUP spokesman al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum; 'Adil Sayyid Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hadi; Dr. 'Izz-al-Din 'Ali 'Amir, member of the Community Party leadership; and Dr. Deng Dongren [as transliterated], spokesman for the Sudanese people's Liberation Movement [SPLM] spoke at the seminar.

In his speech Dr. Nur-al-Da'im urged the opposition to focus its efforts in current favorable conditions on mobilization in order to stage a people's uprising."

'Abd-al-Hadi said in his speech, the full text of which AL-HAYAH obtained yesterday, that "the Sudanese opposition inside the country has made military moves and staged mass uprisings to topple the regime. And abroad, the international political move was the big achievement, as it isolated and condemned the regime in international forums. And it must be acknowledged that the regime itself has actually helped the opposition in some way to convince the world of its bad government, aggressive stances, ugly practices, changing policies, suspect links, and danger to the Sudanese people, its neighbors, and the region as a whole." [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Izz-al-Din 'Amir stressed the need to hold the constitutional conference and to separate religion from state. Deng Dongren said that "the SPLM does to wish to secede if northern parties are willing to comply with the agreements and treaties signed with them." [passage omitted]

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Tunisia

EIB Grants Loan for Industrial Projects

LD3007200794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] During a ceremony held yesterday at the headquarters of the European Investment Bank [EIB], Salaheddine Ben M'barek, Tunisia's ambassador to the European Union, and Rex Speller, head of the Mediterranean department at the EIB, signed a loan agreement in the amount of 18 million Tunisian dinars to be devoted to the preparation and building of two industrial estates. The first is to be at Lemghira in Ben Arous and the second at Tina in Sfax.

The project, which is to be built by the Industrial Estate Agency, comes within the framework of the national plan for preparing land to build new industrial units and transfer small and polluting factories outside urban areas.

The two officials expressed their satisfaction at the level of cooperation existing between Tunisia and the EIB over a long period and which was marked last year by the signing of five loan agreements in connection with the environment, agriculture, tourism, and partnerships.

Speller pointed to Tunisia's speed and efficiency in the use of EIB loans, a factor that puts Tunisia at the top of the list of other Mediterranean countries benefiting from such loans.

Investment Minister, Portugal's Barroso Meet

LD2807181294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of international cooperation and foreign investment, held talks today with Portuguese Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso on the means of bolstering cooperation between Tunisia and Portugal, particularly in the economic sphere.

Mohamed Ghannouchi stressed Tunisia's desire to strengthen and diversify economic cooperation with Mediterranean countries. He said that economic, financial, and trade relations between Tunisia and Portugal could rise to the level of the amicable relations between the two countries, which would encourage Tunisia and Portugal to create the fields and mechanism required for fruitful cooperation between them. [passage omitted]

Barroso expressed his country's determination to intensify bilateral cooperation. He stressed the need for the two countries to specify new fields that would promote bilateral exchanges.

The Portuguese minister also expressed his admiration of the result of the political and economic changes witnessed in Tunisia.

Joint Fish Breeding Project Signed

LD3007191994 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The latest in the foundation stones of partnership and cooperation between Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Norway was manifested today in the launching of a joint Tunisian, Saudi, and Norwegian fish breeding project, which comes within the framework of the master plan for fish breeding. For further clarification, we contacted Chadli Laroussi, the secretary to the government in charge of agriculture:

[Begin Laroussi recording] The fish breeding project signed today by the three investors [Ba'ithun] is a pioneering project, first because it has been launched following the promulgation of the unified investment code that provides for important privileges in investment. Second, it is the first project within a tripartite partnership in Tunisia involving a Tunisian investor who participated in its financing together with an investor from Saudi Arabia and another from Norway. This tripartite partnership is important because it guarantees good marketing for the project's products abroad.

Then there is the fact that this project is the first to be launched after drawing the master plan for fish breeding in the internal areas in Tunisia. As you know, a shortage in fish products is expected on an international scale, between 40 million to 50 million tons of fish products, so fish breeding will have good prospects in the markets. We have to bear in mind that there will be a surplus in the market because several investors in the Mediterranean have the same plans. However, we believe that, because of the Tunisian quality and the special efforts made to ensure that the production meets international standards, we believe that Tunisian products would be able to compete in world market. [end recording]

We move now to Mr. Bachir el-Mountassir, director general of the agency for the promotion of agricultural investment, who assesses the project.

[Begin el-Mountassir recording] The costs of this project amounts to 70 million dinars, to which the three partners contribute on an equal basis. The Tunisian partnership has 50 percent, while the Saudi and Norwegian partners share the other 50 percent.

The project will, after its completion, be able to export 600 tons of bass and skate. New techniques will be used for the first time in Tunisia. You know that the Norwegians have a good reputation in the fishing industry, and involving Norwegian elements in such projects is a great gain for Tunisia. I believe that this project will give impetus to the sector, especially in that it has come following the master plan. We in the agency will follow up the project intensively to guarantee its success because it would mean launching other similar projects. [end recording]

Kuwait**Shaykh Sa'd Discusses Arab Problems**

94AE0158A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp 16-17

[Interview with Prince Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, by Mulhim Karam in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, is a type of leader who gains in stature the better one gets to know him. He is mild-mannered, easy to associate with, and magnanimous. He understands public affairs. His heart is open, his house is open, and his time is open. Pure goodness resides in his innermost soul and purity of the white marble of temples is in his heart. With this, he proceeds to deal with people, whose issues he is able to understand. With his genuine Arab character and with the mentality of modernization, he proceeds to deal with any issue that crops up and any demand that develops. To him, time is a school and adversities a reminder and an echo. To his mind, the future is a book that is read at present and learned from the past.

At his office in the premiership, I engaged in dialogue with Shaykh Sa'd and asked him about all developments. He withheld no answer. In his answers, he was clear, sincere, and mindful of his people's and country's aspirations. Developments have delayed these aspirations but they haven't dimmed the bright hope and the determination to accomplish.

[Karam] Will the slogan of "Kuwait's prisoners" continue to be raised or will it turn into a reality, namely to bring back the missing?

[Sa'd] The prisoners issue isn't just a slogan. The entire world knows that it is our number-one issue. The prisoners and the hostages are our brothers and sons. During its tyrannical occupation, the Iraqi regime snatched them from mosques, homes, and streets and took them hostage. It continues to detain them unjustly and aggressively and to procrastinate in releasing them, and even in permitting interviews with them and in providing information about them. This regime has been trying to exploit this humanitarian issue for political purposes. The continued detention of our prisoners in the Iraqi regime's prisons creates a cloud of pain and grief that has settled over Kuwait in its entirety. I shouldn't forget to express in the name of Kuwait's amir, government, and people our thanks and appreciation for the sisterly and friendly countries and all international and regional organizations for the endeavors and efforts they have made to free our imprisoned and mortgaged sons. Endeavors and efforts will continue at the regional, Arab, and international levels to pressure the Iraqi regime to release them and to return them to us safely, God willing.

[Karam] Does your highness believe that the National Assembly has played its role in bolstering the democratic process Kuwait is undergoing?

[Sa'd] Democracy is a bright and honorable side of the modern Kuwait, even though it has been a constant basic feature of the Kuwaiti society since it came into existence. The regime has always been keen on embracing the principle of shura [consultation]. Therefore, democracy in Kuwait isn't newborn. In one form or another, it has been deeply rooted in the character of the Kuwaiti society. What is important is that the practice of democracy be a means of purposeful and constructive action that serves Kuwait and preserves its supreme interests.

[Karam] To what extent does cooperation between the government and National Assembly go and how can it be developed?

[Sa'd] I have said and I will always say that all the Kuwaiti people are in the same boat. For this boat to be safe and to reach the safe shore, all those who are aboard it must cooperate sincerely. For the Kuwaiti people, cooperation isn't just an option but a duty, and the only option.

[Karam] What about the Kuwaiti opposition?

[Sa'd] What do you mean by opposition? Is it opposition for the sake of opposition? Who opposes serving Kuwait? Who opposes bolstering national unity and sincere cooperation to preserve Kuwait's security, sovereignty, and safety? Who opposes sincere efforts and united ranks in the face of the dangers that pose a threat to our country and the safety of our citizens? Who puts individual interests above supreme interests?

[Karam] What has the reshuffled cabinet, which you chair, accomplished since it was reshuffled? What are the programs and aspirations it plans to accomplish?

[Sa'd] The message I addressed to the brother citizens on 4 April 1994 was a statement that underlined the most important issues and urgent tasks that the government must confront. The address also outlined the time framework for the executive steps needed to start dealing with each of these issues. The executive steps have actually been started.

[Karam] How is your government dealing with the economic stagnation imposed by consequences of the Kuwait liberation war, when will it surmount the budget deficit, and when will the country regain its economic vigor?

[Sa'd] Economic stagnation and budget deficit are two problems experienced by numerous countries, both industrial and developing. A task force has been formed to supervise the implementation of an economic program that encompasses certain visions, most significant of which is to squeeze expenditures and reduce public spending; enhance state revenues; expand the private sector's role in economic activity and involve this sector

in some major sections, such as oil and public services; and make sure not to burden citizens with limited incomes.

[Karam] What is your opinion of the necessity of Kuwaiti women's participation in political life, which is something that women are demanding now?

[Sa'd] Let me tell you that Kuwaiti women are up to the level of the responsibility. Women hold important government positions now. As for women's participation in political life through elected office, this matter is the subject of the government's and National Assembly's interest.

[Karam] Now that the fourth anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is approaching, is the Iraqi danger still present and what is the level of Kuwait's defense preparedness for any external danger?

[Sa'd] The Iraqi danger isn't confined to Iraq but goes beyond to pose a threat to the entire region. This danger will persist as long as the regime ruling in Baghdad, whatever this regime is, continues to have an aggressive tendency and expansionist ambitions and as long as it interferes in the affairs of other countries. This mentality is the mentality that hurled the region into the furnace of devastating conflicts.

Kuwait is doing its utmost to protect its security and to defend its sovereignty and independence and the safety of its citizens by strengthening its intrinsic capability and by cooperating firmly with its brothers and friends.

[Karam] A total of 25,000 people have been made fully naturalized Kuwaiti citizens. How will you deal with this new reality and will these people be loyal to the state?

[Sa'd] The fact is that the people you are talking about haven't been naturalized. They are Kuwaiti citizens who were born in Kuwait after their parents had acquired the Kuwaiti citizenship in accordance with the law. Their status was amended on a government initiative, which received the National Assembly's approval. Thus, these people have been guaranteed the right to run for election and to be elected to parliamentary bodies. This poses no burden to the state. Rather, they are the ones who carry the burden of exercising this right and rendering the trust it entails.

[Karam] Is security stable in Kuwait and have the security agencies deactivated all the centers of terrorism?

[Sa'd] I will leave it up to you to answer the second part of the question. You must have personally felt stability of the country's security. This is a blessing for which we thank God, especially in light of the brutal acts to which our dear country and society were subjected during the tyrannical aggression. However, the security agencies and the citizens are always on the alert in anticipation of any terrorist or sabotage act. Security men have proven that they are the vigilant eyes watching for the country's security and for the safety and stability of both citizens and residents.

[Karam] What is your view of the political developments being experienced by the Arab region generally and by the Gulf region in particular?

[Sa'd] The Arab world continues to suffer from the tragedy of division and paralysis brought upon it by the Iraqi regime with its treacherous aggression against Kuwait. History will record that the Iraqi regime's crime of occupying the State of Kuwait has brought evil consequences to the entire Arab nation and to common Arab action.

[Karam] What is your evaluation of Kuwait's relations with the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states?

[Sa'd] Our relations with the brothers in the GCC are firm fraternal relations founded on the unity of our history, goal, and future and on common interests. These positions were embodied in the brothers' full solidarity with Kuwait versus the treacherous Iraqi aggression and in their support for Kuwait in all areas and were crowned with the brothers' participation in expelling the invading Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

[Karam] If the Gulf region is subjected to a common threat or if any GCC state is exposed to danger, has Gulf military cooperation reached the level of defense unity?

[Sa'd] Gulf military cooperation is extant, and it proved its presence in the preparation for the Kuwait liberation war and during that war, when the territories and skies of the GCC states were tantamount to a single military unit and to a single strategic depth, and in the GCC states' actual participation in the war. We continue to hope that Gulf military cooperation will undergo constant development. The Gulf states' security is one and the same and the danger that threatens these states is one and the same.

[Karam] Kuwait has had and still has an effective and influential role in stemming the hemorrhage caused by conflicts among Arab and Islamic countries. What role has Kuwait played in the developments experienced by Yemen?

[Sa'd] Regarding the Yemen war, Kuwait performed its role through the position taken by the GCC states which urged incessantly the need to cease fire in observance of the two Security Council resolutions and in order to avoid bloodshed. We believe that unity cannot be imposed by force and that dialogue is the means that must be embraced to settle disputes. We wish the fraternal Yemeni people security and stability.

[Karam] Do you see a need to establish a unified Arab strategy at all levels?

[Sa'd] Before we talk about establishing a unified Arab strategy at all levels, let us first establish controls that end bloody internecine fighting among sons of the same people and let us establish guarantees of nonaggression among the Arab states themselves. Let us agree on minimal principles that form a firm base for common

Arab action—principles such as state sovereignty, non-intervention in other countries' domestic affairs, and cooperation in combating terrorism and crime. Let us establish common Arab action foundations that aren't influenced by temperament and whims. We can then talk about establishing a common strategy and about other forms of advanced cooperation.

[Karam] In light of the international developments, what is your assessment of the Kuwaiti-US relations?

[Sa'd] Kuwaiti-US relations are very firm. They are based on mutual respect and cooperation to serve common objectives and interests. We work to bolster cooperation with the United States in the various fields.

[Karam] What about Kuwaiti-Arab relations?

[Sa'd] Kuwait is very keen on bolstering its relations with the fraternal Arab countries that reciprocate this keenness, especially with the Arab countries that supported Kuwait's right and declared their rejection of the Iraqi regime's aggression against Kuwait. We are prepared to develop cooperation with these countries in all fields.

[Karam] Is there a plan to revive the Damascus Proclamation and to bring it out of the state of suspension? What did the eight foreign ministers discuss in the meeting they held in Kuwait last week?

[Sa'd] The Damascus Proclamation embodies the effective cooperation that was achieved between the GCC states and the sisterly Egypt and Syria during the Kuwait liberation war. Moreover, it reaffirms basic principles for any Arab common action. Consultation continues with the brothers in these countries to develop practical formulae for this cooperation in the defense, political, economic, and other fields. This is in addition to the extant and growing bilateral cooperation with these countries. The latest ministerial council, which convened in Kuwait last week, discussed a number of issues of interest to the Damascus Proclamation member states and to the entire Arab nation, led by the issue of the Iraqi regime's procrastination in implementing Security Council resolutions connected with its aggression against Kuwait, especially resolutions pertaining to recognition of the Kuwait-Iraq border, the release of Kuwaiti prisoners, payment of reparations, and a pledge not to commit or support any terrorist or sabotage act against Kuwait.

[Karam] How do you view the current situation in Lebanon? Are you optimistic about liberation of the occupied South Lebanon and the start of development and reconstruction?

[Sa'd] First, I am pleased to send with you a message of love and appreciation for the beloved Lebanon. Second, in response to your question, I say that we are optimistic about regaining South Lebanon and establishing security and stability in the fraternal Lebanon. We are optimistic about success of the development and reconstruction process that has been launched with the customary

Lebanese ardor. The Lebanese brothers have suffered heavily from the woes of the bloody conflict on their soil. We are pleased today to see the Lebanese brothers regain their tolerant, friendly, and peaceable character, their harmony, and their cooperation to rebuild and develop their beautiful country. Kuwait will not hesitate to perform its duty toward the fraternal Lebanese people and to contribute to bolstering their new march, which we wish utter success.

[Karam] Is the Arab-Israeli peace process accomplishing its objectives and will the train reach its stations on schedule and with the desired hopes?

[Sa'd] Lasting peace must encompass all tracks in accordance with the UN Security resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

[Karam] Will Israel agree to return Jerusalem to its legitimate owners?

[Sa'd] Jerusalem is important to followers of the three divine religions. No party may control it exclusively at the expense of the others. The land and the sanctities must be restored to their owners.

[Karam] How can Islamic conflicts among brothers, as in the current cases of Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, and other inflamed areas, be resolved?

[Sa'd] We do Islam an injustice when we attribute these conflicts to it. These conflicts could be conflicts for power, tribal conflicts, or something like that but they have no connection with Islam. Whatever the nature and causes of these conflicts, the only solution for them can only come through dialogue, understanding, and negotiations held far from the use of force or the threat of the use of force, which are likely to lead to devastation, misery, and bloodshed.

Compensation for Iraqi Victims To Begin

LD0108184994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT
1 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait 1 August KUNA—The General Establishment for estimating the reparations for the losses sustained as a result of the Iraqi aggression on the state of Kuwait has announced that it will start tomorrow [2 August] the payment of the first instalment of the amounts of compensation it recently received from the UN reparations committee to some Kuwaiti citizens who suffered as a result of the aggression. In a statement a copy of which KUNA has obtained today the committee said that the first instalment of reparations would be paid to claims lodged by citizens who were victims within group B in connection with death and grievous physical harm. This instalment is part of funds which the UN reparations committee recently received to the value of 2.75 million U.S. dollars to be paid to victims within this group in 16 countries including Kuwait. [passage omitted]

KPC Says No Change in Oil Policy

LD0108191794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1737 GMT
1 Aug 94

[Text] Kuwait, 1 August—The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation [KPC] has denied today the remarks carried recently by the local weekly 'AL-MU'ASHIR' attributing them to the oil minister, Dr 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj and published under the title "No Participation With Foreign Companies but Contracts and Oil Consultations."

In a statement about the weekly's report the KPC said "the oil minister did not make any remarks to that paper."

The KPC emphasized in this respect that the current orientations concerning foreign participation in exploration, drilling and production projects in Kuwait has not changed. It added that work is still underway to finalize the study and examination of all technical, legal, and commercial aspects of this participation.

At the end of its statement the KPC made clear that this study, when it is finished by the end of 1994, would be submitted to the competent Kuwaiti authorities to take the final decisions on it.

* Prime Minister Comments on Peace Process

94AE0154A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
15 July 94 p 16-17

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister in Kuwait, date not given: "Peace Is Coming; Israel Will Benefit"—first two paragraphs are AL-HAWADITH introduction]

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is the dean of Arab foreign ministers both in age, skill, and expertise. His views are neither imposed nor presupposed, but rather are cited by his counterparts, colleagues, and Arab foreign ministers, who express satisfaction with Shaykh al-Sabah's initiatives, practices, and viewpoints. They welcome them gladly, because they know he is quick-witted and farsighted.

The meeting in his office in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry lasted over an hour. He answered all questions clearly and knowledgeably.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is peace coming? Does the Palestinian state exist in this incomplete and limited form?

[Al-Sabah] All of us are working for peace, but we want a just peace.

When the signing took place between the Palestinians and Israel, we were the first to welcome it as the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. It was a first step on the path to a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution.

I believe that the signing of this agreement has opened the door to peace. It would be difficult to shut it again. I do not think that the door to peace will be closed after today, but it will take a long time. I cannot conceive of attaining complete peace before the first of next year. We would like it to be not longer than that.

[AL-HAWADITH] But is Israel serious about the peace process?

[Al-Sabah] Israel has an interest in being serious. All Arab markets would be within its reach, if peace is attained, because it is dominant technologically, commercially, and industrially.

Peace is in Israel's best interest. There might be differences between the two parties in Israel, but both parties know that peace is in Israel's interest.

[AL-HAWADITH] There is a common expression: No war without Egypt; no peace without Syria. Is this still true? Can there be peace in the region without Syria's approval?

[Al-Sabah] First, with regard to the saying, 'no war without Egypt,' Egypt reached an agreement with Israel at Camp David. It regained its territory and ended the matter by establishing normal relations with Israel. Egypt regained this territory without shedding blood. Egypt had lost a great deal in this regard.

As for Syria, I am certain there is no peace without Syria. Syria is the key to peace in the region. Everyone in the Arab world must get behind Syria's position and support it internationally, so that it can attain its rights in Golan and extend its sovereignty over its territory.

[AL-HAWADITH] Where does Lebanon stand in this regard?

[Al-Sabah] Of course, Lebanon is a participant in the peace process. I would say no peace without giving Lebanon its due, by applying UN resolutions. Nations must submit to legitimate UN resolutions. Therefore, we will stay with Lebanon until its rights are restored.

[AL-HAWADITH] Should Israel withdraw from Lebanon?

[Al-Sabah] In spite of itself, it would withdraw in accordance with the Security Council resolution, if it respected Security Council resolutions.

[AL-HAWADITH] Regarding unilateral Arab-Israeli contacts, will they affect the comprehensive peace process?

[Al-Sabah] I do not want to get into these matters, but I would like to recall that all of us participated in the multilateral meeting in Spain, under American-Soviet patronage. Multilateral meetings started there. There were also meetings in Oman and Qatar. This does not mean that those meetings negatively affected the peace process in the region.

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I think that Qatar or Oman or Kuwait will not bring about peace. Peace will be achieved by countries with direct relations.

[AL-HAWADITH] Did the meeting of the ministers of the Damascus Declaration nations achieve its goals?

[Al-Sabah] Yes, it achieved its goals. We were committed to an agenda that stipulated dealing with issues pertaining to the Middle East, such as Iraq's compliance with Security Council resolutions, the Yemeni issue, etc.

[AL-HAWADITH] What do you expect from Secretary Christopher's visit to the area?

[Al-Sabah] You must ask those that Christopher will visit. He will not visit Kuwait according to his schedule. We have not been officially informed of this matter.

[AL-HAWADITH] The position vis-a-vis Iraq with regard to Kuwait and the Gulf. Is it still the same? Do you think it possible to hold an Arab summit conference in light of this atmosphere?

[Al-Sabah] First, I would like to emphasize that we are not against the people of Iraq. If anyone causes the Iraqi people pain, we suffer even more as people. Our dispute is with the present Iraqi regime. I do not believe that it would be any use holding an Arab summit conference unless Iraq implements the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 838 and the prisoner issue. For Iraq to return to its Arab and international standing, it must implement the UN resolutions. If it does not implement them, I do not think it would be useful to have an Arab summit. It would not be useful in any conciliation. It is meaningless to always say that there must be Arab conciliation.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the Kuwaiti prisoners?

[Al-Sabah] Iraq has more than 600 Kuwaiti prisoners, most of them children and women, who were abducted from their homes. This matter, i.e., their return, completely preoccupies us.

The father wants to know the mother's whereabouts; the woman wants to know where her husband is. The children want to know about their mothers. We have put out dossiers with the names of all prisoners, those who arrested them, those who issued orders to capture them, where they went, and who took them to their places of captivity in Iraq.

All of these dossiers were handed over to the Arab League and the Red Cross, but we regret that they [the Iraqis] always claim that they have no prisoners. As of today, they have not agreed to the Red Cross entering Iraq. Furthermore, if their statements are true that the prisoners were killed in the war, we say to them, give us their bodies and their remains.

All of these matters are the focus of our concern. They are extremely important to our people. We would like to see results very soon in this regard.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the issue of the three islands, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, the matter of United Arab Emirates' [UAE] ownership of them, and the dispute over this matter with Iran?

[Al-Sabah] Unfortunately, there is a dispute between us and Iran. We did not want this dispute. Iran is a neighbor, and we always want our relations with our neighbors to be excellent.

We have called for the three island dispute to be resolved by diplomatic means and for a dialogue among the countries concerned, but we have not found attentive ears for a dialogue.

Iran will only open dialogue over one island, Abu Musa.

We think it important that the dialogue be about the three islands. In my opinion, the issue could easily be resolved if Iran would agree to discuss the issue of the three islands with the UAE.

Our brothers in Iran avoid discussing the three islands, or rather, they say that only Abu Musa is subject to dialogue and discussion. I would like this issue to vanish from the region's problems, after the two sides understand that a solution is in the best interests of the region as a whole.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are the GCC nations in agreement about all the steps taken?

[Al-Sabah] Each country has its viewpoint. This is the right of any country. In your question, you mean Qatar. We have not taken the situation seriously, according to our brothers in Qatar who have their own viewpoint. God willing, I would want them to return to their brothers in the GCC, so that there can be a mutual understanding to resolve all our problems.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are the Palestinians divided over the issues of Palestine and the existing state, or will they ultimately be in agreement?

[Al-Sabah] I would hope that they are not divided. Gaza and Jericho exist, and there are those who demand the Palestinian leadership be in Jericho. They always have the excuse that 'unless there is money, we are not ready to talk about anything.' When a man goes to his land, he does not need money. These things do not please us.

We have supported the Palestinian issue since its inception, and we will not change our views. There might be a dispute with the PLO; we have always stated that. We say reproachfully that we have no confidence in the organization known as the PLO. However, that does not mean we are against the Palestinian people. We have recently paid \$25 million to help the Palestinians. This sum was paid to the International Bank and not to the PLO, because we do not trust that organization. We paid the money to the International Bank for Palestinian health, social, and educational matters.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is the Islamic Movement a temporary phenomenon, or will it become even bigger? How do you deal with it?

[Al-Sabah] We do not make a connection between any phenomenon here and others in the rest of the countries. Each country is free to deal with phenomena and new developments.

[AL-HAWADITH] What is Kuwait's view of the new world order, and does it include violations of people's rights?

[Al-Sabah] There is no complete order. We welcomed the establishment of the new world order after the changes that have recently occurred in the world.

Who could have believed what happened in the Soviet Union? Who could have believed that the Soviet Union could fall apart that quickly? Every order has its good and its negative aspects.

I am one of those people who support the new order. This order is for the future of the world as a whole.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is communism finished in the world?

[Al-Sabah] I have never been a communist. I think communists remain only in Cuba. We should ask President Castro.

[AL-HAWADITH] Europe is angry at the Arabs, because it believes that it did its share in the Gulf war, that the Arabs were partial to America in all agreements and contracts recently concluded, and that this reflects negatively on Arab-European relations. What is your view?

[Al-Sabah] We were only partial through competitive bidding. It is true that after liberation, we had no one to ask for help. We called on American and European firms but, that does not mean that we were biased. Today, bids are offered to all companies with no discrimination between American, French, or Arab.

[AL-HAWADITH] What has become of the Arab Assistance Fund for Lebanon?

I believe that only Kuwait and Saudi Arabia paid into this fund, but the events that happened to us in Kuwait have prevented us from being able to continue this financial support at the present time. We have also paid \$75 million to build schools in Lebanon.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has North-South cooperation produced the desired results, or is it hopeless?

[Al-Sabah] We think the experience will produce something useful for the Third World.

[AL-HAWADITH] With regard to Russia, will the superpowers agree that it should be one of them and become a member in the giants' club, as a reward for its adopting positions against communism?

[Al-Sabah] So far, Russia is still a superpower. In spite of us, it is a superpower. What has happened to it has weakened it politically, but it is a military presence.

Today its relations with the European countries and NATO are firm. Agreements have been concluded with those nations and the alliance. Friendship treaties were recently signed with European countries in Greece. All of that is in the interests of all parties.

[AL-HAWADITH] Regarding America's agreement to empty the Turkish pipeline, is that an indication of America's turning against its previous position and reconciling with Iraq?

[Al-Sabah] Please do not put this matter into the context of American change, as much as it is helping a difficult economic situation in Turkey. The Americans have strategic bases and, at the same time, they must make attempts to aid Turkey, and aiding Turkey must come through emptying the oil in the pipeline. So far, the UN committee concerned has not yet approved this.

If the committee approves, the amount of money involved is \$240 million, of which 30 percent will be Kuwait's share for compensation.

This will happen only once. We are not affected by this matter. Therefore, this is not a change in American policy.

[AL-HAWADITH] Fascism in the world is a new phenomenon from which Europe is suffering. What—in your view—is stimulating its spread?

[Al-Sabah] I have no comment on this matter.

[AL-HAWADITH] It is well-known that since the early sixties, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has been on the political and diplomatic scene and is one of the most knowledgeable of diplomats. However, we note that for a short time after the liberation, it was as if he were in retirement, at a time when he should have been a pivotal figure for initiatives, conferences, and meetings in the Arab world and internationally. What are the reasons that prompted you to withdraw from this role?

[Al-Sabah] Do you not know the reason? I had not yet had time for my problem. Today, I give my full attention to the conclusion of my problem. After that, I will help to conclude the problems of others.

My country was occupied; up to now, I was threatened. How could I be involved in people's problems, when my problem was not yet resolved. Let me save myself first.

[AL-HAWADITH] All of us are pleased with the events in South Africa. The traditional problem has been concluded and racial discrimination peacefully condemned. What is your view of South Africa's future?

[Al-Sabah] First, we are happy for South Africa since apartheid has been eliminated. I went to South Africa to represent the Emir. I met Lebanon's foreign minister there, Faris Buwayz.

We are pleased with the democratic rule that has come from a person who was jailed for 25 years and, then, emerged from prison and went into the Republican Palace as head of state. This proves that South Africa has peacefully embraced a new era. If reason rules, I hope this reason will prevail.

Qatar

Diplomatic Ties Established With Cote d'Ivoire

JN2907141294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT
29 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Doha, 29 Jul (WAKH)—The governments of Qatar and Cote d'Ivoire have decided to establish diplomatic relations between their two countries, at the ambassadorial level, as of today, 29 July. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Ends Visit to Jeddah

LD0108133894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the sisterly state of Kuwait, and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this afternoon. His Highness was seen off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general. [passage omitted]

At the end of his visit to the kingdom, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the sisterly state of Kuwait, today made the following statement:

I visited the sisterly kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the past two days and I had the honor to meet with my eminent brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, may God protect him, to whom I conveyed the best greetings and the most sincere wishes from his brother the Amir of the state of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, may God protect him.

I listened with attention to his guidance and pertinent views on the warm brotherly relations existing between our two countries and two fraternal peoples and ways to bolster it, in addition to other issues of mutual interest.

I had also the pleasure of meeting with my brother His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, my brother His Royal Highness Prince Sultan

Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general, and a number of senior officials in the sisterly kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This visit to my second country falls within the framework of the desire of the leadership in the two sisterly countries to continue the consultation and the coordination in all fields. During this visit, we exchanged our viewpoints on the cordial, excellent and historical relations existing between the two countries and the two fraternal peoples in order to strengthen and develop these strong relations in all fields. We also reviewed the progress achieved by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and stressed the importance of bolstering and strengthening that process in the interest of the GCC member states and in order to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of their people.

We also discussed various regional and international issues in the interest of our Arab and Islamic nation. On this pleasant occasion, I would like to praise my second country, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the great achievements it continues to make in all fields, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques and his wise government. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the sisterly kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its king, government and people for the warm hospitality and reception accorded to me and my brothers the members of the accompanying delegation during this visit. I pray God Almighty to help the beloved kingdom of Saudi Arabia achieve further progress, strength and prosperity.

Paper on Jerusalem Clause, Jordan's Role

JN2907131394 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
27 Jul 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Jerusalem And The Special Role"]

[Text] Rabin's claim of separating religious issues from political issues in a desperate attempt to prevent any demand by the PLO for Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem does not appear to be a logical claim. This is especially so since the issue of Jerusalem is not only religious in nature. It is also political, since it is an integral part of the occupied territories. Based on the Declaration of Principles signed between the PLO and Israel, under direct U.S. sponsorship, on 13 September 1993, negotiations on the future of Jerusalem will begin after two years of Palestinian self-rule. Therefore, nothing justifies Israel's disavowal of its commitments toward Jerusalem through wornout propaganda, because the political future of this city has not yet been defined.

Meanwhile, the recognition of Jordan's special role with regard to the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem as stated in the declaration signed between Israel and Jordan in the White House garden on 25 July, in the presence of the U.S. President and under his sponsorship—a declaration which ended the state of no war and no peace

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between Amman and Tel Aviv—does not give Israel the right to control Jerusalem. Moreover, Jordan's acceptance of the principle of an Israeli recognition of this role weakens the Arab consensus on the Arabism of Jerusalem. It also gives Israel the green light not to return Jerusalem to the Arabs.

According to the Israeli policy based on attempts to get rid of its opponents and deal a fatal blow to the peace process, it is not ruled out that this recognition could be the first spark of a possible confrontation between the PLO and Jordan. This is because Israel is the one which ultimately benefits from investing in Arab differences for its own interest as known throughout its history since the establishment of its entity in the heart of the Arab nation.

The possibility that Israel will foil any effort aimed at adhering to the Arabism of Jerusalem is quite conceivable. However, Tel Aviv realizes very well that wriggling out of the clauses of the Declaration of Principles it signed with the PLO, under the sponsorship and before the eyes of the U.S. Administration, is not easy, and thus realizes that the future of Jerusalem cannot be subject to any proposed political one-upmanship.

It is true that highlighting the Jordanian special role in the joint Jordanian-Israeli declaration angered the Palestinians. However, it is useless to say that the role included in the declaration could necessarily marginalize the Palestinian role regarding the future of Jerusalem. This is because the issue of Jerusalem is not confined to its religious nature, but is deeply rooted to the national and historic rights of the Palestinian people which Israel is trying to bypass.

This means that any agreement within any track which directly or indirectly mentions Jerusalem away from a Palestinian presence is an agreement whose legitimacy cannot be trusted. Hence, it would weaken the Palestinian stand one way or another. Despite Arab and Islamic ramifications of this issue, the future of which is still pending, it is hard to find a solution to the Jerusalem issue outside the framework of the Palestinian cause.

Yemen

Presidential Council Receives Fatah Member

JN0208094494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, this morning received brother 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee. Zaki conveyed to the brother member of the Presidential Council congratulations from the Palestinian leadership and people over the victory of unity and elimination of sedition, ignited by the symbols of sedition in the Socialist Party.

During the meeting, brother 'Abbas Zaki said Yemeni unity is a pan-Arab gain and is the dream of all honest Arabs from the Gulf to the Ocean.

For his part, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani expressed our country's appreciation for the firm Palestinian position in support of unity and national sovereignty.

The meeting was attended by brother Mahmud Saqr, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Planeload of Humanitarian Aid Arrives in Sanaa

JN3007190394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] A planeload of 26 tons of electricity generators, water pumps, assorted agricultural equipment, blankets, and medicine arrived in Sanaa today. The consignment was donated by the UN humanitarian assistance department as part of the UN's humanitarian aid to our country following a field visit by a UN team to the Yemeni governorates affected by the war triggered by the gang of apostasy and secession.

Brother Najib Fawzi, UN spokesman in Sanaa, said the aid shipment will be followed by other such deliveries. The UN human affairs department will appeal to humanitarian organizations and donor nations to extend further assistance to our country on an urgent basis to cope with the damage caused by the war.

On hand to welcome the consignment were brother 'Awni al-'Ani, the UN resident representative in Sanaa, Khalid Jabir 'Afif, director general of projects at the Ministry of Planning, and Hisham Sharaf, director general of cooperation with industrial nations.

SAIRI Leader Threatens 'Strike' Against Regime*LD0108171894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1618 GMT 1 Aug 94*

[Text] Vienna, 1 Aug—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has warned that southern Iraq will not be a secure for anyone as long as the regime in Baghdad remains in power.

In a speech to a gathering of Iraqis on a religious occasion held in the Iranian town of Qom, and circulated by the SAIRI's bureau in Vienna today, he threatened that: The Iraqi popular opposition will strike against anyone who cooperates or deals with the Iraqi regime, including foreign oil companies that the regime is striving to seduce with generous offers to breach the embargo imposed on it.

Al-Hakim said: Iraqi mujahidin are determined to make southern Iraq a hell for criminals, followers of the regime, and oil companies that are thinking of dealing with that regime.

He said that the Iraqi regime's recent attempts to end its external and internal isolation had failed, and the political blockade was still besetting the regime in Baghdad.

The SAIRI chairman stressed that the Baghdad regime's isolation at home and abroad had increased. He stressed: South of Amarah will not be secure for anyone unless it becomes secure for the sons of the Iraqi people.

Adviser Denies 'Izzat Ibrahim Under House Arrest*JN0108190694 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 1*

[Text] The press adviser at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman has denied the AL-MAJD report that 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, was placed under house arrest.

Teams To Help in Rebuilding Work in Yemen*MM0208093094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 4*

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Teams To Be Sent to Yemen To Participate in Rebuilding Process; Payment Will Be in Hard Currency"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources close to the Iraqi Government delegation, headed by Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, that visited Sanaa this week have revealed that the Iraqi Government has agreed to send to Yemen three Iraqi teams from the Military Industrialization Organization, the Oil Ministry, and the Housing Ministry.

Each team comprises some 50 to 100 engineers and technicians whose task it is to rebuild what the civil war has destroyed in Yemen.

The teams will be distributed among oil refineries, airports, and laboratories. They will repair power stations and desalination plants.

The Yemeni Government will pay their salaries in hard currency and offer them free accommodation in Sanaa, Ta'izz, and Aden.

A large number of teachers, doctors, civilian pilots, aviation engineers, and some electricity experts who have arrived from Iraq over the past three years are currently working in Yemen.

Effects of Iraqi Oil on World Markets Viewed*MM0208110294 London THE TIMES in English 2 Aug 94 p 27*

[Article by Hazhir Teimourian: "Saddam's Tidal Wave of Oil Could Sweep Opec Away"]

[Text] Political strikes in Nigeria have pushed the price of a barrel of benchmark Brent crude oil back above \$19. But an end to United Nations sanctions against Iraq could set the market awash with cheap oil and eliminate the remaining power of the Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries to affect prices.

When, on 18 July, the U.S. and Britain stopped Russia, France, and China steering the UN Security Council towards lifting sanctions against Iraq, there was only one country that did not hide its relief. Kuwait, whose existence had so ungratefully been assaulted by Saddam Husayn in August 1990, hailed the stance of the Council "in support of right and justice," without specifying precisely what it wanted done before the reigns might be eased on its tormentor.

Kuwait has, of course, much unfinished business with Iraq. It wants its new borders to be recognised and some 700 citizens, held incommunicado in Saddam's prisons, to be freed. It demands to be compensated for the damage inflicted on it, and it hankers after the art treasures stolen from its palaces and museums by Saddam.

But Kuwait's relief was secretly shared by most other members of Opec, the oil cartel, and by numerous Western oil companies and environmentalists. A strong fear grips them all that if Iraq were to resume oil sales, prices might be halved within months to below \$10 per barrel. That would plunge many a national budget into crisis and make the plumes of pollution over many a city rise higher into the atmosphere as consumption increased.

It is even predicted that Iraq would cause the death of Opec itself, as its members, desperate to feed their rising populations, flooded the markets with even more cheap oil.

Nor is the fear confined to those with a primary interest in oil. A senior official of the Washington State Department, was unwisely frank enough in Paris recently to say that a resumption of Iraqi oil sales could cause the collapse of the Algerian Government in favour of its

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fundamentalist opponents. The statement confirmed the suspicion of some observers of the Middle East that the United States was not keen on the overthrow of Saddam Husayn, because any replacement government from the opposition would leave it no excuse for shutting out the country's oil from the markets.

But how justified are such fears? Would it not be possible to bring Iraqi oil on stream gradually, so that it might be absorbed into the increasing demand as the recession eased? Expert opinion seems to be divided.

As to whether Saddam Husayn has managed to learn a lesson or two from his blunders of the past four years and toned down his defiance of the Western powers to present a more acceptable face to the world, there is little doubt. He has, we are told, co-operated with United Nations inspectors over the destruction of his chemical weapons stocks and, this week, allowed the inspectors to complete the installation of a nationwide network of cameras and sensors to detect the test-firing of any long-range missiles. By the time the Security Council comes to examine the sanctions again, in mid-September, the system should be operational.

The Iraqi ruler has not, of course, lifted his economic blockade against the Kurdish region in the north, which is under the protection of the Western allies, and he has continued his programme of destroying the habitat of the marsh Arabs in the south. But the Security Council Resolution 687 which imposes economic sanctions on him and provides for their removal is not linked to the observance of human rights in the country, even though it was passed on 3 April 1991, at the height of the repression of those two communities. It concentrates solely on the removal of the threat that Saddam Husayn posed to his neighbours.

As a result, European businessmen are now flocking back to Baghdad, apparently encouraged by their governments, and signing contracts in anticipation of September. The Greek socialist government of Andreas Papandreou last week received Tariq 'Aziz, Saddam's deputy prime minister, with special warmth, and promised loans and "sophisticated construction machinery to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure."

Meanwhile, Mumtaz Suysal, the new Turkish foreign minister, who supports the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989 in Beijing and opposes the Western protection of the Kurds, is expected to try hard for the re-opening of the Iraqi oil pipelines to the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. And this week, an Egyptian trade delegation will visit Baghdad for the first time since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait four years ago.

Saddam's next move is expected to be to recognise the new United Nations demarcation of Kuwait's borders. It will be humiliating for him, for not only he will have "been forced to eat his words of Iraq's "19th province, but also because the new lines will, give him an even more restricted outlet to the sea. Senior Iraqi officials

have hinted that his televised speech of 17 July, in which he stressed "our offering of peace and security to the one who needs it" was aimed primarily at Kuwait.

Should he take such a radical step, the insistence of the United States and Britain on continued sanctions will lose almost all legal credibility. The two Western powers will also play into the hands of those who blame the West, rather than Saddam Husayn, for the economic hardships now being endured by the people of Iraq. Saddam's policy of refusing to sell batches of oil under the supervision of the United Nations in exchange for food and medicines has proved effective.

It is important to point out that it would take a number of years before Iraq could reach its prewar Opec quota of about 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd). For practical reasons, the process could only start as a trickle, through the two pipelines to the Turkish oil terminal of Yumurtalik. The country's own terminals on the Gulf were largely destroyed during the war with Iran, and it is inconceivable that Saudi Arabia would allow Baghdad to use its pipelines to the Red Sea.

Fadil Jalabi, director of the London-based Centre for Global Energy Studies, believes that Iraq might be allowed to export 1.5 million bpd to 2 million bpd by the end of next year, almost all of it through the Turkish pipelines. This would more than absorb the expected rise in demand for Opec oil over the period, at present standing at about 25 million bpd.

By contrast, Peter Davis, of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, is optimistic that the entry of Iraq to the market would not overturn the apple cart. Though reluctant to specify any figure for the extra demand, he says that the economies of India and China are making strong recoveries, while Japan and the U.S. are also emerging from the recession. He agrees, however, that any decision to liberate Iraq from the sanctions would immediately depress prices. By how much, however, is anyone's guess.

What is beyond dispute is that the freeing of Iraq would leave no room for the poor discipline of many Opec members in sticking to their quotas. Such is the dire need of some members for extra cash that some cheating must always be expected.

Furthermore, Iraq would want to increase its exports over the foreseeable future. With possibly the second largest reserves in the region, it could easily achieve the production capacity to sell up to 6 million bpd by the end of 1998, according to Dr Jalabi, as compared with Saudi Arabia's exports of 8 million bpd.

While some Gulf countries were forced to sell their oil at about \$10 per barrel earlier this year, even without the competition of Iraqi oil, the spectre of a single-digit price for a barrel in the longer-term must be haunting the counsels of many a treasury committee in Opec land.

An even gloomier picture of the future of the organisation is being painted by the Arab Banking Corporation. The Bahrain bank said in its monthly economic bulletin on Monday that the cartel's future was "rather in doubt." It said: "The present marked weakness in oil markets and very low prices have served to weaken Opec as a force in the market," to the extent that the 12-nation organisation "might dissolve itself." Saddam might be robbed of sweet revenge, after all.

States Urged To Reconsider 'Hostile Stands'

JN3107163794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Amir al-Hilw: "The Source of Real Power"]

[Text] Man's real power lies within himself first and then in his unity and harmony with his family and neighbors.

What applies to the individual also applies to society and the state. A state seeking security and peace must find them in the factors of power within itself and the ties of good neighborliness and relations with its neighbors. It is on the basis of this fact that leader President Saddam Husayn addressed his call in the historical speech he made on the anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution to all states, even those that took part in the aggression against Iraq, to reconsider their hostile stands toward Iraq, especially because many of the illusions and miscalculations on which they based those stands have proved to be baseless.

Despite the destruction it suffered during the sinful military aggression and the difficult conditions it has faced as a result of the unfair blockade, Iraq will always remain a regional and international power. Others must deal with it directly on all issues relating to security and peace in the region and their impact on the international arena in general. Any measures or arrangements made in the absence of Iraq will remain incomplete and useless. Those behind them will realize they are mistaken in all their attempts to isolate Iraq.

Dependence on the enemy will always be full of dangers for the security of the state, its neighbors, and the desired peace. Practice and many world events prove foreigners, no matter how powerful, belligerent, and aggressive, are mainly concerned about their own economic, political, and strategic interests. Any "alliances" they enter are in fact only restrictions they set affecting sovereignty and independence, constituting a form of exploitation.

When Iraq, which is strong thanks to its people, leader, and capabilities, calls for reconsideration of the hostile stands against it, such a call actually stems from its great concern for its Arab environment and the need to unite it on clear bases of common interests and the considerations of pan-Arab security and preventing the enemy from interfering in Arab affairs or becoming a trustee over the resources of certain Arab states. Those who seek security and peace must find it within themselves and among their brothers and real environment. By the God of Kaaba, a foreigner has never done a favor to an Arab.

Resistance Urged To U.S. Embargo Policy

JN3007141194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "The Failure of U.S. Deception"]

[Text] The recent Security Council debate on the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq has clearly shown how isolated the United States is due to its unjustifiable stand calling for the continuation of the blockade against Iraq.

All the deceptive, propaganda trumpets of the U.S. have failed to prevent the UN Security Council member states from expressing their clear and frank opinions on the need for the council to acknowledge Iraq's full cooperation and to consider the question of lifting the oil embargo.

If not for the U.S. right of veto, the council member states would have adopted a more effective stand by now. This opinion is substantiated by the fact that Washington reminded the council members before the debate that it had the right of veto.

This unjustifiable hostile U.S. stand was preceded by a large-scale deceptive campaign by the U.S. Administration involving President Clinton and his State Department, advisers, and UN representative. However, the Iraqi cause remained clear, rational, and precise, reflecting its justice and sound logic. Furthermore, this cause was backed by evidence and documents. Ambassador Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, spoke about this cause referring to Iraq's full cooperation with the Security Council.

But as usual Washington tried to distort the facts and to speak about subjects which have nothing to do with the Security Council resolutions. Otherwise, how can U.S. officials reconcile their calls for the continuation of the blockade under the pretext of Iraq's non-cooperation with the council with their statements that Iraq's return to the oil market would lead to a drop in prices? The next question is: Since when has the U.S. Administration been interested in increasing oil prices?

What Washington has not said is that it is determined to squeeze the Arabian Peninsula and Kuwaiti oil to the last drop and to squeeze out every dollar so long as there are servants like Fahd and al-Sabah.

But these facts are no longer secret to the international community. Europe, Russia, China, and Japan have begun to fully understand these facts.

At any rate, U.S. propaganda lies have failed and they can no longer hold water vis-a-vis the Iraqi right and justice. Today, the Iraqi position enjoys the support of all equitable forces in the world and is closer to final victory over the forces of evil, whether they like it or not.

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Western Air Facilities in Gulf States Protested

JN2907120994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (INA)—Iraq has protested ongoing facilities offered by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers for American, British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace. A letter from Iraq's delegate to the Arab League secretary general said that the violations constitute a serious threat to Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The letter, delivered to the League's Secretary General 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, said that from 18 to 24 July, the aircraft mounted 188 sorties, having taken off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's delegate asked that copies of the letter be circulated as a document among the Arab League members.

Saddam Orders Expansion of Rice Acreage

JN3107171594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 4

[Article by Kamal al-'Ukayli: "Measures To Increase Areas Planted With Rice"]

[Text] In implementation of the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn to expand rice cultivation, the Ministry of Agriculture held several meetings of experts and heads of agricultural departments in the governorates to study the possibilities of increasing the area cultivated with rice by 13.6 percent.

Agriculture Minister Karim Hasan Rida said committees have been formed for this purpose, including representatives of the Ministries of Irrigation, Industry and Minerals, and Trade and the state engineering organization to develop irrigation projects for the new areas and to provide every requirement, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, and rice processing devices.

The minister said a plan has been drawn up to provide seeds through the Iraqi Company for the Production of Seeds, in addition to what the farmers will obtain from last year's production, and also fertilizer compound 27/27 and urea fertilizers.

The minister explained that the necessary measures have been taken to provide pesticides to combat rice pests, especially al-dannan.

Minister Says Baghdad Conference Palace Rebuilt

JN3007130194 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 30, INA—President Saddam Husayn on Friday [29 July] received a telegram from Housing and Reconstruction Minister Mahmud Diyab heralding the completion of reconstructing the Conferences Palace in Baghdad which was heavily damaged during the 30-states aggression on Iraq in 1991.

In his telegram, the minister said Iraqi engineers and technical cadre managed to surmount all technical difficulties that had faced them in reconstructing the palace and therefore succeeded in aborting the bettings of enemies on stamping out (our) people.

The theatre, halls, fronts and the advanced intercommunications, airconditioning and electric networks had sustained severe damages when bombed by enemy warplanes, but Iraqi personnel managed to restore to normal operations of the networks, the minister said.

Guidelines Permit Licensing of Liquor Stores

JN2807170894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] The Interior Ministry issued guidelines yesterday on the implementation of Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 82 of 1994 closing entertainment places, dance halls, and night clubs and banning the sale of liquor in social clubs, hotels, restaurants, and other tourist places.

The guidelines stipulate that governors shall undertake the task of closing entertainment places, dance halls, and night clubs and withdrawing liquor licenses granted to places serving all types of liquor. They shall also undertake the task of banning the sale and serving of all types of liquor in social clubs and clubs of societies, unions, and federations as well as hotels, restaurants, and other tourist places.

It has been decided under these guidelines to cancel licenses granted for the sale of liquor in markets, provided that the Interior Ministry grants licenses for selling liquor in private stores under clear signs, with Iraqi or Arab names, and without any tempting display of liquor. Such stores shall be confined to the sale of liquor only. The area of the store assigned for the retail sale of liquor shall not be less than 20 square meters and licenses for the sale of liquor shall be granted only to members of the non-Mulsim communities.

The guidelines permit the transfer of the license for the sale of liquor from the licensee to his first degree legal heirs or to his partner if there is legal contract between them.

The guidelines also permit the transfer of the license for the sale of liquor from one store to another if the original store has been closed for reasons of compulsory vacation, reversion of ownership, destruction, or reconstruction, provided that the new store fulfills the required conditions.

The guidelines state that annual renewal of the license can only take place in the personal presence of the licensee. A power of attorney shall not be acceptable in this respect. The license may be renewed after the expiration of the renewal period if the reason for the delay is serious illness, provided the licensee produces a supporting medical report from an official quarter, or because of the licensee's travel abroad. In such a case, the license can be renewed only in his personal presence within two months from the expiration of the license.

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The guidelines ban the granting of licenses for retail or wholesale liquor sales to persons who are below 21 years of age. The guidelines also state that it is impermissible to grant a license for the sale of liquor in a collective manner between two or more persons. It is also impermissible to use the liquor sale license for more than one store. The guidelines give factories the right to appoint agencies for the wholesale sale of liquor after obtaining licenses for the wholesale sale of liquor from the Interior Ministry, on the condition that the store shall not be less than 100 square meters. This shall also apply to liquor import licenses granted by the Trade Ministry. The guidelines ban the granting of liquor sale licenses in the holy cities of Karbala', al-Najaf, Samarra', al-A'azamiyah, and al-Kkazimiyah.

The guidelines also ban the sale of liquor in areas within a radius of 500 meters of holy shrines. The shrines in Bab al-Shaykh, Shaykh Ma'ruf, and Shaykh 'Umar are included under these measures. The guidelines also ban liquor sale within a radius of 150 meters of mosques, husayniyahs, schools, and hospitals. The licenses covered by these guidelines are subject to the fees chargeable under existing laws and are not reimbursable for any reason whatsoever.

The guidelines stipulate that governors shall take the necessary measures to refer contraveners of the "first" and "second" clauses of the decree to the competent courts for punishment under Article 4 of the decree, which is imprisonment for a period of not less than three years and confiscation of the store if it belongs to the contravener, or payment of a fine equal to the value of the store if it is leased. The General Directorate for Planning and Followup shall, through coordination with the Police General Directorate, take the measures necessary to refer the original contravener or his contravening partner, subject to the provisions of clause three of this decree, to the competent court for punishment under clause five of this decree, which is imprisonment for a period of not less than one year and three years in the case of a recurrence of the contravention, and the confiscation of the store if it belongs to the contravener or payment of a fine equivalent to the value of the store if it is leased.

The guidelines say: The managers or contractors of social and cultural clubs and clubs of societies, unions, and federations shall assume the responsibility to ban the sale and serving of all types of liquor. The contracts signed with the contractors of these clubs shall be amended to ensure implementation of these provisions. The managers of hotels and owners of restaurants and tourist places shall assume the responsibility to ban the sale and serving of all types of liquor.

The guidelines recommend setting up a central operations room in the Interior Ministry under the leadership of the most senior under secretary and the membership of the governor of Baghdad, the director general of police, the director general of the Planning and Followup Department, the commissioner of police in al-Rasafah, Baghdad, and the commissioner of police in al-Karkh,

Baghdad, and the chief of the Tourist Police, whose task shall be to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of these guidelines and to submit monthly reports to the minister. This is in addition to setting up operations rooms in the provincial capitals under the leadership of the governors with the task of following up on the implementation of the provisions of these guidelines and submitting monthly reports on the situation to the central operations room.

The guidelines entrust the People's Councils with the responsibility of following up on the implementation of the provisions of the decree under clause "seven" and informing the Interior Ministry about any reluctance or failure to implement the provisions of the decree, including seizing control of the places falling within their responsibility. The interior minister shall determine the number of places which have been granted licenses to sell liquor in a statement to be issued for this purpose.

The Iraqi News Agency correspondent says that the abovementioned guidelines shall be implemented as of Sunday, 24 July 1994.

Forgery Decree: Life Imprisonment, Amputation

*JN3007140294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
24 Jul 94 p 4*

[Revolution Command Council, RCC, Decree No. 92 dated 21 July 1994]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

Decree No. 92 dated 12 Safar 1415 Hegira corresponding to 21 July 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: Whoever forges an official document, whereby this forgery leads to gaining an illegal benefit for himself or preventing others from enjoying their rights, shall be punished by life imprisonment or amputation of the right hand from the wrist.

Second: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and it shall apply to crimes that take place after its implementation and until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

Punishments Listed for Using Post To Commit Crime

JN3107145894 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 28 Jul 94 p 2

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 91 dated 21 July 1994]

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[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

Decree No. 91 dated 12 Safar 1415 Hegira corresponding to 21 July 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: Any state worker or Armed Forces member using his post to deliberately commit or take part in committing a crime, for which a perpetrator is normally punished by at least 15 years imprisonment, shall be punishable by life imprisonment.

The punishment will be death if the perpetrator is an employee of the Internal Security Forces or the Special Security Organ.

Second: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and it shall apply to crimes that take place after its implementation and until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

Relief Fund Distributes Money to 'Harmed Families'

JN3107134894 Baghdad AL-IRAQ in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] The central organization for administering the relief fund has distributed 88 million dinars to harmed families during the last six months. A source at the organization said the money was distributed to 3,810 bereaved families, 1,611 disabled people, and 5,305 people whose property was damaged. He said the fund received 229,954 dinars in donations during the same period.

'Thousands' Said Suffering From Spreading Malaria

NC0208094394 Paris AFP in English 0258 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Tolle Aram]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, 2 Aug (AFP)—Malaria is spreading fast in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, striking thousands of people, mainly because of a shortage of insecticides and too many rice-paddies.

According to the Kurdish health authorities, 29,000 people caught the fever between March and June, compared to a total of 35,000 for the whole of 1993. The disease has hit hardest in remote villages.

In Taqtaq, 100 kilometre (60 miles) south of the main Iraqi Kurdish town of Irbil, between 30 and 50 patients report each day to a clinic to receive tablets.

Samit Hidayat Ahmad, a 32-year-old policeman who looks more like 45, said he first went down with malaria last year.

There is plenty of medicine to treat patients and so there are no deaths, said Dr. 'Ali Birzinji. But the problem, he said was to try and prevent the disease, primarily by spraying crops.

"For the whole of northern Iraq, we need at least 270 tons of the insecticide malathion. We have received only 20 tons," from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), he explained.

Another reason for malaria in northern Iraq is that farmers, who used to grow fruits, are turning increasingly to rice and the paddy-fields are a breeding ground for the mosquitoes which spread the disease, Birzinji added.

Rice has turned into an attractive crop for farmers because of the UN embargo imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait four years ago and because of the Iraqi blockade of the north, ruled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad.

Agriculture chief Sa'di Ahmad Pira said Kurdish rice production was now running at around 20,000 tons per year, twice the amount produced before the uprising which ousted President Saddam Husayn's army from the north in 1991.

Up until the revolt, "malaria was under control as Baghdad used to spray the endemic regions regularly with malathion," health official Yusuf Marzani said. Only 3,500 cases of malaria were reported in 1988.

WHO anticipated the malaria crisis last year, calling in October for urgent action. It warned that the number of sufferers in 1994 could reach 150,000.

INA Reviews 2 Aug 'Great Call' Anniversary

JN0108124094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Tomorrow, Tuesday, is the fourth anniversary of 2 August, the great Day of the Call, which was a preemptive reply to the plot hatched by the rulers imposed on Kuwait against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Iraq's victory in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah [war with Iran] and its thwarting of a major episode in the colonialist-Zionist scheme, after eight years of holy jihad, has angered the enemies of Arabism and Islam. They found in al-Sabah family what they were looking for to achieve their evil objectives of weakening Iraq and killing its triumphant spirit, at a time when Iraq was trying to build its economy and compensate its people for what they had missed during the fierce war with Iran. The Iraqi people offered rivers of pure blood in that war to defend the nation's sovereignty, honor, and dignity.

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The Kuwaiti regime's deviant, suspect policy had reached the level of open plotting against the nation's major issues, particularly the issues related to pan-Arab security. For example, this regime sought to tamper with oil prices to serve colonialist interests and international monopolies. This suspect policy coincided with a fierce imperialist-Zionist campaign that targeted Iraq's pan-Arab stands in defense of Arab rights, after this struggling country had managed to foil all Western wagers that wished it defeat in its just war with Iran.

Iraq had warned of the consequences of the policy of the rulers imposed on Kuwait that is hostile to the nation's hopes and aspirations. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and then foreign minister, sent a letter to the Arab League secretary general on 15 July 1990, noting that Kuwaiti practices can only be regarded as suspicious and serious, that they threaten the security of Iraq and the Arab nation, and that they are part of a serious imperialist-U.S. scheme whose dangers, objectives, and motives are known to Iraq.

Although Iraq was aware of that scheme, it was eager to deal with the rulers of Kuwait out of its belief in pan-Arab and sincere brotherly principles. Iraq missed no opportunity to express its desire to resolve the crisis with Kuwait. It sent many envoys to the Arab Gulf states and to the Government of Kuwait in particular and the other Arab countries to explain its position on the crisis.

During the 1988 Algiers summit, Iraq told the Kuwaiti side about its honest desire to resolve the border problem within the framework of fraternal ties and the higher pan-Arab interests. However, Kuwaiti officials sought to delay matters and worked slowly on this issue at a time when they were continuing to exploit a sizable portion of Iraq's territory. They had stolen oil worth \$2.400 billion from al-Rumaylah oil field over 10 years.

In his speech at the Baghdad extraordinary summit on 28 May 1990, President Saddam Husayn warned of the serious positions adopted by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates by flooding the oil market and trying to reduce oil prices, thus causing \$1 billion annual loss for Iraq per \$1 drop in prices. This greatly harmed Iraq and wasted the wealth of the Arab nation's oil-producing and non-oil-producing states. The rulers of Kuwait, however, continued to avoid a serious discussion of this issue, in line with the plans of their Zionist and American masters to strike at Iraq and continue to plunder the wealth of the Arab nation.

Iraqi positions were based on its pan-Arab policy, away from narrow calculations and private interests, and on its belief that the nation's wealth should make its sons happy and not turn into a means to plot against them.

Out of its desire to stop the looting of the nation's resources with the help of the al-Sabah family, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister at the time, sent a letter with a proposal to the Arab League secretary general on 15 July 1990. The proposal said that had all oil-producing and nonproducing Arab countries acted in solidarity with one another on the political level; had they

agreed to increase the price of oil to about \$25 a barrel; and had they established a fund for Arab aid and development as agreed at the Amman summit, to be financed by \$1 per barrel of oil sold for more than \$25 by the Arab oil-producing countries, this fund would have brought them \$5 billion annually. The oil-producing countries would also largely increase their income because collective Arab solidarity regarding this fair price would increase their revenues and protect them from the hostile attempts to weaken the Arabs and their oil resources.

The al-Sabah family reacted to Iraq's sacrifices and assumption of its responsibilities in defense of pan-Arab security and Arab dignity as well as the Gulf wealth, which would have been wasted had Iraq, God forbid, lost the war with Iran, by increasing their plotting with the aim of destroying Iraq's economy and reducing its revenues in implementation of their masters' plans.

In view of these documented facts, the great Day of the Call came to put an end to this large-scale conspiratorial scheme. That day embodied the will of the Arab masses to put an end to the plotting of the United States and Zionism against Iraq and the nation.

Subsequent events, including the 30-state aggression, proved the soundness of the principled Iraqi position and conclusions as well as the extent of the grudge the enemies harbored for Iraq and the Arab nation. They also revealed the Kuwaiti rulers' role in implementing these schemes in order to harm Iraq's triumphant march, accomplishments, and victories, which enhanced the nation's ability to confront the challenges preventing its development and progress.

Although the United States besieged Iraq economically before the great Day of the Call, the continuation of the unjust embargo against the Iraqi people throughout the past four years proved the true nature of the premeditated Zionist-colonialist scheme concocted against it. That scheme began after Iraq had emerged victorious from its battle against the Iranian policy of expansion and aggression.

With the help of God and the determination of their leader mujahid Saddam Husayn and the generous sacrifices, the Iraqis succeeded in foiling the remaining links of the American-Zionist plot despite the fierceness of all chapters of aggression. The Iraqis daily view with increasing pride their accomplishments in terms of the victory and glory they attained in their counteroffensive, embodied in the lofty edifices, great bridges, and large rivers they constructed. These provide additional evidence on the greatness of the people of Iraq and their ability to do the impossible.

Consequently, 2 August will continue to be a burning torch in the hearts of all good sons of the Arab nation, with the sons of Kuwait in the forefront. Likewise, the principles which guided the major battle, the immortal Mother of Battles, will continue to guide the Arab generations on the road of free, dignified life.

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Rabin Reacts to 'Arafat Remarks on Jerusalem

TA0108181894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Report by Hezi Makhles]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening reacted to Yasir 'Arafat's statement according to which Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. This is what Mr. Rabin said at the end of a memorial service for Engineering Corps casualties:

[Begin Rabin recording] United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel in practice. Even if the issue of Jerusalem comes up for negotiation, at the latest two years from today as was agreed in the Declaration of Principles agreement, we will insist on our clear cut and unequivocal position, namely that whatever happens Jerusalem must remain united under Israeli sovereignty and Israel's capital. This is the situation, and this is how it will be in future. [end recording]

Government To Send Humanitarian Aid to Haiti

TA0108155094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400
GMT 1 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Re'udor Benziman and Gilat Levi; place not given—live]

[Text] [Levi] Good evening Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Levi] First of all, we would like to know whether we have it so good as to send Israeli troops—recently pulled out of the Gaza Strip—on a more heroic and exotic mission to Haiti?

[Beilin] Not yet. I do not exclude the possibility of this happening one day. We may take part in the UN peacekeeping forces. After all, 66 countries participate in peacekeeping duties. However, that was not the decision we reached today.

[Levi] Exactly what decision was made?

[Beilin] We acceded to the U.S. request, and if and when a peacekeeping force is stationed in Haiti after democracy is restored, we will agree to participate in a humanitarian or civilian force that will be established there, whether by sending equipment or dispatching medical personnel, but not military personnel.

[Levi] Why do the Americans need us too?

[Beilin] First of all, this is definitely a compliment. They appealed to various countries all over the world, not to everyone. Apparently they thought that we could be of assistance. Incidentally, their original request was made up of three options: One, the participation of soldiers in a peacekeeping force; two, the dispatching of medical

and humanitarian personnel; three, logistical assistance. We opted for the second option.

[Benziman] If I understand correctly, Dr. Beilin, what we actually committed ourselves to is more or less what we sent to Rwanda approximately 10 days ago.

[Beilin] I do not know if we are dealing with the same scope. The size of the humanitarian delegation we sent to Rwanda was unprecedented in the State of Israel's history. I am not sure that we are discussing anything similar in scope. However, in principle, Israel clearly enjoys a relative edge in the medical field and we will definitely be willing, in the future as well, to extend aid to various locations around the world where we are needed.

[Levi] Does Israel support an invasion of Haiti?

[Beilin] The United Nations has decided to restore democracy in Haiti while granting the United States the option to do so. We are part of the international community.

[Benziman] In other words, we will support an invasion if the United States decides to carry one out?

[Beilin] I would not like to use such emphatic terms; however, I would say that we support the UN's decision to permit the United States to restore democracy in Haiti.

[Benziman] Incidentally, was any discussion held at the Foreign Ministry with regard to the possibility of dispatching a military force and not just medical personnel?

[Beilin] This was the one of the options the Americans asked us to consider, but it was declined by everyone at this stage. I do not think that we can send troops on missions of such a nature before there is peace in the Middle East.

[Levi] What is your assessment of the chances of a possible U.S. invasion, seeing as how American invasions around the world have not been successful to date?

[Beilin] I am not so sure of that. Some recent examples of U.S. intervention have not been failures. I do not want to discuss this question. It is a U.S. decision and I do not want to assess its chances of success or failure.

[Benziman] Thank you very much for your time, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin.

Cabinet Seen Declaring 'War' on Terrorism

TA2907125794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jul 94
pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Alex Fishman: "Declaration of War"]

[Text] The terrorist attack in Argentina earlier this month, just like the Munich massacre in 1972, constitutes a turning point in the war against international terror.

The cabinet decision yesterday to hunt down the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires and London is presumably much more than just another vague declaration. Although no declarations were made after the massacre at the Olympic Games, the world was swept by a temporary wave of sympathy toward Israel which largely enabled the manhunt of Black September members and leaders of other terrorist organizations.

The situation is similar today. After years of being indifferent to Islamic fundamentalist terror and turning a blind eye to Iran's role in it, the world appears to have closed ranks today due to the anxiety over this unbridled terror.

The cabinet declaration may be indicative of the same doctrine that guided Israel's intelligence services in their international war against Palestinian terror in the early 1970's. Such a doctrine entails concentrating enormous efforts on the collection of data for operations, giving the highest priority to vast investments in security measures (then it was to Israeli planes and installations around the world, whereas today we are talking about Israeli installations and more Israeli involvement in the protection of Jewish institutions), as well as initiated Israeli actions to eliminate terrorist leaders in the Middle East and elsewhere around the world.

Such a doctrine can only be executed if other intelligence services abroad are prepared to cooperate, or at least to turn a blind eye to the activities of a foreign intelligence body on their soil.

If this is not one of those perfunctory declarations meant to perform a public relations obligation, but a real declaration of intent, then what we are faced with here is a work order for the Israeli intelligence services. Such an order requires the intelligence services to change their priorities on the operational level: Greater emphasis on the collection of sufficient data about the targets, reshuffling work plans, redefining the objectives of spy networks, etc.

In the short term such a move may result in greater protection of installations. Operations take longer to plan and to yield results.

The cabinet's announcement also constitutes an admission that the terror attacks in Buenos Aires and London were not one-time acts of vengeance. We are faced with an ongoing wave of terrorism with long-term objectives, against which we have declared war.

UK's Major Briefs Rabin on Bombing Investigations

TA3107133394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jul 94 p A6

[ITIM report]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin talked on the phone Friday night with British Prime Minister John

Major, who reported to him on the British security services' investigations into the two attacks in London last week.

Rabin thanked Major for Britain's assistance to the Israeli Embassy and for the investigations by the British authorities. Rabin and Major agreed that a coordinated international effort is required to hunt down the terrorists who perpetrated the attacks.

In their talks, Major called Rabin "a great leader and great statesman" and said he hopes they will meet soon.

Chief of Staff Baraq on Iran, Terror, Golan

TA0208103494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said today that Israel has been maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the international intelligence community concerning the war against terror. According to Lieutenant General Baraq, the international community knows and realizes that Iran stands behind the terror through a complex network and is its real source. He said the recent spate of terror attacks brought the issue to the attention of the public and governments. I hope, he said, the strength and political willpower will be found to take the action required against Iran.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of staff toured IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outposts in the Jordan Valley, spoke with the soldiers, and stressed the importance of recent political developments. At the same time, he urged the soldiers, despite the pictures coming from Washington and the peace talks you must remain on the alert because there are some elements who will try to hurt Israelis and the budding process. The Jordanians try very hard to prevent attacks but do not always succeed, he said, and responsibility for the life of our people ultimately lies with the IDF soldiers.

Replying to a question about the future of the Golan Heights, the chief of staff said that the IDF will be able to provide the best security answers to any political decision, and that the IDF's top brass will make sure to notify the political level of its positions concerning the security implications of such decisions.

Soldier Wounded by 'Terrorist' Fire Near Hebron

TA0208072494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] continues to search for a white Peugeot from which shots were fired this morning at a minibus carrying soldiers. One soldier was lightly wounded by the shots. He was hit in the leg and evacuated to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the terrorists fired the shots when their car overtook the minibus near the settlement of 'Otni'el in the Hebron area.

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IDF, Police Wound 14 in Ramallah Rioting

TA3007185294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Fourteen locals sustained light wounds during riots in Ramallah today. The disturbances started in the town's Manara Square. Some 200 inhabitants hurled stones and bottles at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Border Police. The soldiers fired back tear gas and rubber bullets. All the wounded have been sent home.

Arab Mayors Protest Budgeting Policies, Finances

TA3107183694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] Sharp clashes occurred today during a demonstration by Arab mayors opposite the Prime Minister's Office. The mayors and their workers, who are demanding that their budgets be made equal to those of the Jewish councils, attempted to overrun police roadblocks. Seven demonstrators were detained. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports:

[Begin Horowitz recording] The Arab mayors have been demonstrating opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem for the past three weeks. These were three weeks of quiet protest, which did not draw much attention. Today was a different story. Police prevented hundreds of demonstrators from storming the Prime Minister's Office. The heads of the Arab sector wanted to meet with an official government representative.

The police were surprised by the force of the protest. They repeatedly fended off the demonstrators and, after almost an hour, started to detain those who violated the law.

The financial deficit of the Arab municipalities amounts to 250 million shekels. Husayn Sulayman, spokesman of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, says the government must double the development budgets of the Arab sector. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Golan Lobby Denies Knesset Majority for Withdrawal

TA0108121894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Aug 94 p A2

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani, the head of the Golan Heights lobby, said yesterday that "there was no majority in the Knesset for the amendment of the Golan Heights Law." Qahalani asserted that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statement, according to which over half of the MK's supported the amendment of the bill, was baseless. "Ten Labor party MK's, who are members of the Golan Heights lobby, declared that they would oppose any change in the law if such a proposal was brought before the Knesset," he said.

The lobby members, led by Qahalani, sent a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday, stressing their adherence to the Labor party's political platform which stipulates that "Israel's military and settlement presence and control would be maintained in the framework of any peace agreement or security arrangements with Syria."

The letter, sent in reaction to Peres' declaration, was signed by MK's Qahalani, Eli Goldschmidt, 'Imanu'el Zismann, Ya'akov Shefi, Yoram Lass, Yosi Vanunu, Avi Yehezqel, Ra'anah Kohen, Salih Tarif, and Deputy Minister Masha Lubelsky. [passage omitted]

Peace Accords Seen Not Lessening Security Threat

TA2907125594 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Jul 94 p 13

[Commentary by Amir Oren: "More Your Royal Highness"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The advantage of a peace agreement with another Arab country is so self-evident, so heartwarming, that mentioning the security measures it requires has the disturbing sound of the flies against which the sides joined forces in the 'Arava. Contrary to the peace agreement with Egypt, it is reasonable to assume that there will be no need to establish a demilitarized zone with reduced military forces as a barrier between Israel and Jordan. There is not enough room for that, and the presence of Jordanian Army units along the border is needed to seal it against infiltrations. [passage omitted]

Yet, after opening the gates of Fort Knox and Fort Worth to the Jordanians, helping them get U.S. dollars and F-16's, Israel deserves to aspire for a peace agreement that will do more for its security than just freeze the current situation. It should improve it in a way that would place its first line of defense—in terms of intelligence, air, and antiballistic capability—close to the Scud missile launching sites in western Iraq.

A clever U.S. strategy should have attempted to forge, right from the start, a new "center alliance" that would face the declared enemies, Iraq and Iran. This alliance should stretch from Turkey in the north, through Syria, Jordan, and Israel, to Egypt and Saudi Arabia in the south. The Clinton administration, however, is not of the initiating type; it is the passive-reacting kind. Knowing Husayn as it does, Israel is not exempt from taking initiatives. [passage omitted]

As they are today, the interim agreements with the PLO and Jordan have not improved Israel's security. The number of shootings in the Gaza Strip has increased. There were 33, or more, shootings since the evacuation (one every other day, leaving four fatalities) and there is still no indication that the PLO is ready to confront the rejectionist organizations and take away their guns. No Arab leader has ever established his rule in a given

territory within a short period of time; 'Arafat will be no exception. If he dies, of natural or more earthly causes, his immediate successor is expected to be the one-eyed general Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian forces in Gaza. PLO monitors believe that after a short interim period with the military man in charge, leadership will be handed over to Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]—with the support of Nabil Sha'th and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'].

The PLO will be given a less than full fledged state (modeled perhaps on the Taiwan-China formula of "one state—Jordanian-Palestinian—with two systems/governments") and money, but not everything that money can buy. Husayn, at the same time, made the deal of his lifetime, provided he lives to see it implemented: for a public display of desire, he will receive military and economic aid.

In the immediate term, this increases the military threat against Israel: The decaying Jordanian Royal Air Force will be renewed in one fell swoop and will have F-16 capability. At the same time, the Israeli defense establishment is facing financial distress due to the relocation of Israel's national budget which prefers paying for industrial work hours rather than for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] flight hours. If many additional hundreds of shekels are not found, essential IDF assets, some of which were purchased with budgetary and human agony only after the evacuation of the Sinai, will stop operating. The arrival in the region of new Western and Russian missiles (air-to-air; surface-to-air; and surface-to-surface) will further reduce Israel's edge. Experts believe that if the Syrians had advanced air-to-air missiles at the time, dog fights during the war of Lebanon would not have ended with the one-sided result of 90:0, despite the supremacy of the Israeli pilots and U.S. planes.

The required strategic compensation is not only additional U.S. money and arms that would preserve the order of forces needed to either deter Iran/Iraq and Libya/Algeria or hurt them if they attack civilian targets in Israel. What is called for now, is the establishment of an open security partnership that would move our effective security border all the way to the eastern end of the Jordanian desert. This move should be comprised of: a declared presence of warning systems close to the Iraqi border, which will also shorten the distance to Iran by several hundred kilometers; perhaps placing a local force that could intercept surface-to-surface missiles at the beginning of their trajectory; and, in an emergency, giving the Israeli Air Force freedom to operate in Jordanian skies. These steps will make Saddam and Rafsanjani reevaluate the situation and force them to restrain their treatment of Israel.

For peace to be better kept than Husayn's beard, it must be more stable than passing leaders. No one knows how long Husayn will stay in power. Yitzhaq Rabin, at the same time, last week made another step toward losing

the next elections—even if by then a comprehensive peace is attained with Syria as well. The voters will pat him on the back, but will kick his party's behind for domestic and economic reasons. The display of the beginning of a wonderful friendship in Washington was needed to open the tight American fist. Nevertheless, should Israel face a threat of war, air supremacy, not a good atmosphere, will provide it with the protection it needs.

PLO-Jordan 'Rift' on Territories Viewed

TA0108143794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Aug 94 p B1

[Commentary by Dani Rubinstein: "Jordan, the PLO, and the Bearskin"]

[Text] The signs of a growing rift between the Palestinian Authority and Jordan have given rise to fears in the West Bank and Gaza. Having endorsed a clause acknowledging Jordan's rights at Jerusalem's holy shrines despite ostensibly contradicting the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians concerning the deferment the negotiations on Jerusalem, Israel has either deliberately or accidentally ignited a dispute between 'Arafat and Husayn.

The Israeli argument that it merely confirmed an existing situation at the holy sites seems to be mere sophistry. The essence of the PLO-Jordanian dispute can be gleaned from the two sides' official statements. The Palestinian statement: "We alone have the right to decide the future of Jerusalem—the capital of the Palestinian state—and its Muslim and Christian sacred sites are Palestinian property" ('Arafat's last week's declaration, cited by AL-QUDS). And the Jordanian statement was worded in the following defensive way: "There is no contradiction between regaining political sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem as a result of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the continued Jordanian role as the caretaker of the holy Muslim Jerusalem sites" (from the official Jordanian Government statement).

This dispute has another, ridiculous facet. The PLO and Jordan are arguing about the skin of a bear they have not yet caught, and their chances of owning it in the near future seem to be very slim in view of the fact that the Jewish residents of East Jerusalem far outnumber the of Palestinians, and East Jerusalem is rapidly becoming an enclave surrounded by Israelis.

The Palestinian fear of losing Arab Jerusalem is as ancient as the Arab-Jewish conflict. Yet this time the residents of the territories fear a conflagration. The conflict touches on their daily lives, and unlike the past, it has acquired a new dimension: 'Arafat, who used to live far away, is now right there. It does not matter at all what the bone of contention between the PLO and Jordan is—whether it is Jerusalem, a symbolic, abstract issue, or the more practical matters of economy and authority. In any event, the resumption of the Jordanian-PLO struggle will hurt the Arab residents. The business,

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family, and social ties hundreds of thousands of local residents—mainly from the West Bank and East Jerusalem—maintain with the east bank cannot be severed. They will be seriously harmed by the competition between the 'Arafat-led Palestinian Authority and King Husayn. Struggles will emerge within the Muslim establishment of Jerusalem and the West Bank, and thousands of clerks and other personnel employed by the Waqf, the Jordan-affiliated education institutions, the chambers of commerce, and the trade unions, municipalities, courts, and other public and economic institutions will be torn apart by the two sides' threats and pressures.

Jordan will deprive them of benefits, harm their agricultural exports, limit their passage across the bridges, while the PLO administration will threaten them here.

On the face of it things have not changed. Since the civil war in Jordan during the summer of 1970 (Black September), and even before that, competition has been waged between the Palestinian nationalism of the PLO and the Hashemite regime, to the point that it has become a routine matter for the Palestinians living in the territories. Most of the population has found the way to walk a thin line. They send delegations to King Husayn and issue hundreds of congratulation letters on the success of his medical treatment. At the same time they go to Gaza to pay homage to 'Arafat and pledge their allegiance.

Now, however, the power relations have changed. Five years ago, for example, when PLO intifadah activists thought that AL-NAHAR—which is affiliated with Jordan—did not support them enough, they raided some newspaper stalls, burning and confiscating issues of AL-NAHAR. Only after this they negotiated a solution. Now 'Arafat simply has to issue an edict banning the distribution of AL-NAHAR in Gaza and Jericho and the newspaper's owner is forced to discontinue its publication. The PLO is in the area and wields the power and administrative authority. The PLO in the territories is no longer made up of popular committees which, albeit frightening, wield little power. Now it is the ruling establishment which projects its influence from Gaza and Jericho over the whole of the territories, and even the Arab Journalists Association does not dare denounce the edict against AL-NAHAR.

With all due respect to the controversy over Jerusalem, over the last few days many Palestinians could be heard saying that what this controversy heralds is much more frightening. What happens if they receive a warning telephone call from 'Arafat's office in Gaza or Jericho? In the past they could run to the Israeli military governor's office or ask for Jordanian help. Now there is a different situation, much more difficult.

Study on Strengthening Jewish Jerusalem Reported

TA2907131294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jul 94 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] A team of experts from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies submitted to the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs and to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert a secret study containing ideas and proposals to strengthen the city's status under Israeli sovereignty.

The committee met about 10 days ago to discuss the study, which includes recommendations slated for implementation in 1994-1996, in a bid to strengthen Jerusalem's status under Israeli sovereignty before negotiations start on the permanent arrangement in two years.

The study contains dozens of recommendations, which were submitted to the ministers in abridged form. The experts contend that the recommendations require expansion to make them operational. The team included Prof. Rut Lapidot (international law), Re'uven Merhav (Arabist, diplomat, and former Foreign Ministry director general), Dr. Yitzhaq Reiter (Arabist), Prof. Yosef Schweid and Prof. Yisra'el Kimche (urban planners), Prof. Avraham Friedman and Prof. Ora Ahime'ir (public administration).

The chapter dealing with relations between Jerusalem and its metropolitan areas includes a proposal to set up a metropolitan liaison authority to coordinate issues such as water, sewage, garbage, transportation, and procedures for the movement of people, goods, and services. The team proposes accelerating the building of the ring road, which is slated to run from north to south in East Jerusalem, within and beyond the city's current jurisdiction.

The team also proposes creating jobs outside Jerusalem for the city's Arab population, and enabling all inhabitants of the metropolitan area—both in Jerusalem and in the autonomy—to use 'Atarot Airport. The team recommends coordination between Jerusalem Municipality, Jewish and Arab councils in the area, the Housing Ministry, the Transportation Ministry, the Palestinian Authority, the Civil Administration, and other government offices.

The chapter dealing with the Christian communities in the city proposes creating conditions to lower migration from the city and encourage Christians to return to Jerusalem according to specific criteria, encourage the establishment of Christian institutions, enhance relations with the churches and their mother countries (Ethiopia, Armenia, Georgia), uphold the status quo concerning the Christian communities, define the status of senior clergymen, and anchor their rights in legislation.

The study proposes putting aside land reserves for the building of embassies in the aftermath of the permanent arrangement, trying to lure international institutions and organizations to the city, carefully examining the legal and political status of Jerusalem Arabs who are not Israeli citizens, and consolidating clear guidance on appointments and job assignments in the Palestinian

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autonomy. The study further proposes curbing governmental and quasi-governmental activities of non-Israeli bodies, making sure that Palestinian institutions do not operate in the city, enacting legislation which would expand the authority of Jerusalem's municipal departments with a view to integrating them in the political arrangements in the city, issuing municipal ordinances about free trade zones in the city, such as at the airport or cargo terminals.

Referring to the Arab quarters, the study proposes completing the drafting of detailed urban plans as early as next year, setting up new neighborhood administrations, strengthening existing ones and expanding their spheres of activity, accelerating the planning of roads and the development of public areas in the Arab sector, locating land to provide solutions to housing problems, restoring the Muslim Quarter, and increasing the personal safety of Israelis and tourists at all tourist sites and on their access roads, improving monitoring and registration of illegal migration into the city, and at the same time, making it easier for Arabs to receive Israeli citizenship.

The chapter dealing with the strengthening of Jerusalem's Jewish population contains 20 paragraphs of recommendations, chief among them, curbing migration from the city (according to the team's data, Jerusalem has in the last five years lost 17,000 Jews to other Israeli locations). The team further proposes providing a wider variety of jobs in the city, reducing construction in rural locations west of the city, strengthening the city's academic infrastructure by building more colleges, renovating the downtown area, and promoting the Jewish Quarter.

The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies has to date published hundreds of research studies. The current study was also submitted to Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Bolivia Offers To Move Embassy Near Jerusalem

TA0208101394 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Israel is cool to a new proposal by Bolivia to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to the outskirts of Jerusalem in a bid to prevent closure of the Israeli embassy in La Paz, sources in the capital said.

The Foreign Ministry has been planning to close the embassy in La Paz as a cost-cutting measure.

"Outside of Jerusalem is still outside of Jerusalem," a source said in response to the Bolivian offer, made last week, to move its embassy to Mevasseret Yerushalayim.

But these remarks seem to hint that Bolivia could still prevent closure of the Israeli embassy if it agrees to move its embassy to Jerusalem itself.

The Foreign Ministry has been looking to close down some of its embassies in Latin America in an attempt to

cope with the mushrooming of Israeli diplomatic missions in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa in recent years. There are also plans to close the embassies in Honduras and Paraguay, officials said.

At the same time, the ministry has no plans to close the embassy in El Salvador, since that country maintains its embassy in Jerusalem. Officials want to encourage countries to move their embassies to Jerusalem, and therefore will not close diplomatic missions in those countries that have their embassies in the capital.

The source implied it is unlikely that Bolivia's new proposal will be accepted, but added that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will finalize the Bolivian issue in about two weeks.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu said Israel will be closing embassies in Latin America for economic reasons, but insisted that no final decisions have been made.

Air Force Chief on al-Dirani, Iran Nuclear Threat

TA0108183394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Major General Herzl Budinger, the commander of the Israel Air Force [IAF], said that according to Israel's information, navigator Ron Arad was alive and was being held by a pro-Iranian group. Budinger disclosed that the interrogation of Mustafa al-Dirani had revealed details that could be used in future contacts. Budinger added that Iran aspired to attain nuclear weapons. Israel, which was aware of this fact, was operating through the accepted channels in a bid to get the international community to handle the problem.

Maj. Gen. Budinger was speaking at an IAF base at a reception ceremony for the first six of 50 F-16 fighter planes the United States was granting Israel out of its military surplus.

Likud's Qatzav Urges Endorsement of Oslo Pact

TA3107100594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jul 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Bina Barzel]

[Text] Ten months after the signing of the Oslo agreements, one of the Likud leaders, Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav, calls on his party to endorse these agreements.

Qatzav's condition: The agreements should be equally implemented by the Palestinians.

Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, calls for a reassessment of the Likud policy, including the party's willingness to discuss autonomy implementation with any Palestinian representative. Although Qatzav does not name 'Arafat as the Palestinian representative with

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whom he would prefer to hold a dialogue, he does not rule out the PLO chairman when asked on the matter.

In an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Qatzav says: "The Likud should announce that in view of developments, it will be ready to talk to any Palestinian element, and that the Likud will seek to hold negotiations on the implementation of full autonomy in the permanent arrangements."

[Barzel] Do you believe the Likud should announce its willingness to hold a dialogue with 'Arafat?

[Qatzav] When I say "any Palestinian element," I mean just that. Any element. I would announce in advance that we would discuss the implementation of full autonomy in the permanent arrangement.

The Likud must accept the irreversible facts stemming from Rabin's policy, honor the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and declare that if it comes to power, it will renounce its former demand for Israeli rule in the Gaza Strip. It will do so while taking steps to guarantee the existing settlements. [end Qatzav]

Qatzav cautions that if the Likud loses the next election, its survival will be in danger. "If the political basis which unites all the Likud components disappears and Labor wins the next election, the Likud will have a real problem on its hands," he says. "The political factor, and not the economic or social, is what unites all the Likud components. Without it, the various Likud elements will have no common denominator."

Qatzav further accuses the Likud of failing, during its years in power, to establish irreversible facts that could avert the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Likud faction chairman is the first party leader who decided to vent such ideas publicly. In recent weeks, the upper Likud echelons have been secretly holding extended discussions on the need to coordinate their positions in view of the developments that have taken place since the Oslo agreements.

The discussions have been held by the party's political team established by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, named the "senior team." However, the Likud upper echelons—including Qatzav, Netanyahu, Shamir, Beni Begin, and others—have been unable so far to reach accord on the various issues on the agenda, such as: How will the Likud react if the Palestine National Council does indeed repeal the Palestinian Covenant; should the Likud have welcomed the exit from Gaza; and other issues.

The need to examine the Likud stands in light of the rapid political developments has been voiced in numerous private conversations as well. For instance, a senior Likud figure secretly spoke of the need to agree on a compromise on the Golan, although publicly the Likud rejects any compromise.

The discord in the Likud began immediately after the signing of the Oslo agreement, when Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu tried to propose a reassessment of the party's political stands. At that time 10 months ago, Netanyahu's proposal encountered massive opposition among party members. Moshe Qatzav was one of the opponents. Today he explains that the Likud should not have supported the agreement as long as it was not actually implemented. Since it has been implemented in the meantime, the party ought to operate on the basis of facts.

The failure to reach a unanimous stand applies even to the issue of the agreements with Jordan, which enjoy greater support in the Likud. Last weekend, Netanyahu informed Rabin that he will support the agreements with Jordan when they are brought up for the Knesset's approval. Ari'el Sharon, however, assailed Rabin's agreement to grant Husayn a preferential status in Jerusalem's holy shrines.

"The entire political system is and will be undergoing profound changes over the next few years," Qatzav says. "The process will not pass over the Likud. These changes will derive from the forthcoming political developments—and I am mainly referring to the Palestinian issue. These political developments will determine the nature and the extent of the changes in the political system.

"As a result of the anticipated developments, the next elections will determine two things: A. whether a Palestinian state will be established; and B. whether the Likud prevails or ceases to exist.

"I envy all those people in the Labor party who, within two years really, managed to establish irreversible facts leading to a Palestinian state, while the Likud failed to establish irreversible facts preventing the establishment of that state during 15 years. In this sense, the Likud is guilty of failing to establish facts that cannot be reversed.

"My conclusion is that in the Likud's present situation, it must hold a discussion on how it plans to deal with developments that have already taken place and those that will. At this stage, we must accept what has already happened, ridding ourselves of the illusion that the government can be replaced before the elections. There is no chance of another government during this term, despite the illusions to which some of my colleagues still cling.

"After the elections, if the Likud comes to power, it will have to honor the international commitments made by the Israeli Government, on two conditions. One, the implementation of commitments should be done on a basis of reciprocity, and two, all symbols of sovereignty granted to the Palestinians will have to be revoked, and it should be ascertained that the agreements do not cross the line to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Until the elections, we must demand that the government spare no effort to safeguard Israeli citizens' security."

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Netanyahu on Qatzav Statements, Oslo Agreement

TA3107101294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Qobi Meydan; place not given; on the "As of Now" program—live]

[Text] [Meydan] I would like to hear your comment regarding several headlines your party member Moshe Qatzav made today, the first of which reads: The Likud should recognize the fact that, if it assumes power, it will talk to the PLO and 'Arafat.

[Netanyahu] I believe that it is first important to understand that the Likud is a pluralistic movement. People, including first-rank leaders, have various opinions and it is their prerogative to express them. As is known, however, the Likud stands are determined in an orderly fashion by the party institutions, and they have not changed.

[Meydan] Of course. The statement in question was made as part of the public debate you are dealing with. Do you share Moshe Qatzav's opinion?

[Netanyahu] I believe the issue is hypothetical. After all, judging from statements by its leaders—including 'Arafat, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and others—made after the Oslo agreement was signed, the PLO still aspires to destroy the State of Israel. Its covenant calls for this.

[Meydan] Am I to understand that even if you gain power, through elections or some other move, you will not talk to 'Arafat?

[Netanyahu] Please, allow me to complete my remarks. It can be also seen that 'Arafat is not only not keeping his promise to cancel the covenant, he is also not keeping his promise to take steps against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and PLO terror—and there are active PLO elements. Since the PLO has not changed the essence of its most fundamental stands regarding Israel—although it has definitely changed its tactics and local moves—I see no reason for us to change our stands.

[Meydan] A more general view of the remarks Qatzav made—and I am naming him although he is not the only Likud member to make such remarks, I believe—indicates the following: The situation that prevailed when the agreement was first signed and not yet implemented is different from the current situation in which it is being implemented. As a political movement, the Likud should, therefore, regard this as a final political fact when it assumes power.

[Netanyahu] Look, the agreement was and is bad. We opposed it and we still do. It is true that facts, such as Gaza and Jericho, are being established on the ground. These are political facts. It is also true, however, that no such facts have been determined regarding most of the territory. I am speaking of some 90 percent of the

territory of Judaea and Samaria, which is the most essential part in terms of historic values, national security, and the water issue. Therefore, I would say that we should try to diminish the damage these bad agreements might cause. We must act to prevent the establishment of facts that we will regret in generations to come. If it wants to remain relevant in view of the evolving reality, the Likud must address these issues. In general and in principle, our stands regarding the Oslo agreements have not changed. Our effort now is to prevent the damage they cause.

Qatzav Sees No Common Ground for 'Arafat Meeting

TA3107175594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed an interest today in meeting Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, after the latter called on the Likud to accept the Oslo agreement. In reaction, Moshe Qatzav told our party affairs correspondent Menashe Raz that he will refuse to meet with Yasir 'Arafat. Qatzav claims they have no common ground to discuss. Qatzav told our correspondent he will agree to meet with 'Arafat if the latter announces his willingness to forgo the establishment of a Palestinian state and to discuss autonomy as a permanent arrangement.

Basque Delegation Reportedly Visits 'Secretly'

TA3007181494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] A Basque delegation visited Israel secretly a few days ago and met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and senior officials. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that Israel has been mediating between the Basques and the Spanish Government for several months.

Peres Discusses Business Relations in Cyprus

TA3107115194 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Jul 94 p 15

[Report by Amnon Atad]

[Text] Over the weekend, the economic delegation accompanying Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on his trip to Cyprus held several working sessions with economic ministers and top businessmen of the neighboring island. In the meetings, the parties decided to establish a joint business council for the chambers of commerce of the two countries.

The council will promote business ties between Israel and Cyprus and joint ventures in third countries. Initial contacts were also held on the promotion of an idea to construct a medical project in Cyprus based on Israeli know-how and expertise.

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Cypriot economic officials asked the Israeli delegates to expand the currently existing trade ties to cooperation on tourism, production, and banking issues.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Mikhailidhis announced that he intends to head a local business delegation to a regional business conference in Casablanca at the end of October.

Peres and Mikhailidhis discussed the possibility that the offices of a planned joint fund for regional development be located in Cyprus.

Among the members of the economic delegation are Dan Propper, chairman of the Israel Manufacturers Association; Dani Gillerman, president of the Union of the Chambers of Commerce; and businessmen Aharon Dovrat, Mickey Federman, and Alfred Akirov.

Peres, Rabin Attempt To Resolve Disagreements

Peres Declines Trip to Taba

TA3107145294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] In view of the fact that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is attending the Taba talks, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin phoned Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at his own initiative and raised the possibility of Peres' joining him at the summit with President Mubarak. Peres turned down the invitation and decided to remain in his Jerusalem office.

The two will probably hold a tete-a-tete tomorrow. They met today with the negotiating team with the Palestinians, but they did not hold a private meeting. As far as we know, the telephone conversation was also very brief.

The prime minister will apparently try to patch up his differences with the foreign minister when they meet privately tomorrow, but no conciliatory gesture should be expected from the prime minister, his aides claim. The meeting is meant to end the tension between them, but Peres will not receive any political payoff. In other words, if the foreign minister thinks he will be given a more active role in the political negotiations or anything more under his authority, he will be disappointed. The prime minister is not holding the meeting in order to appease Peres. There will be no ceremony; it will be a working meeting, during which Rabin will apparently refer to what happened in Washington, but Peres will not come out of it with any political spoils. The foreign minister will hear pacifying remarks, and that will end it, at least until the next time.

Differences Reportedly 'Settled'

TA0108112494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres met this morning at Rabin's office. It was reported that

Rabin would try to repair the rift caused in Washington, when Peres was offended by the way Rabin treated him at the ceremony with King Husayn. The meeting was requested by Rabin and lasted two hours. Peres would not speak to reporters as he left the Prime Minister's Office.

Senior Labor leaders expressed deep satisfaction at the results of the nearly two-hour meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. They said the differences had been settled and they had agreed on future work procedures. They discussed all the matters involved in their spheres of responsibility in a good atmosphere. Israel Radio reporter Shmu'el Tal said lawyer Giyora 'Eyni, a confidant of both men, was present at the meeting.

Peres 'Not Satisfied'

TA0108175294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Report by Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpts] Associates of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that Peres is not satisfied with the results of the meeting today between himself and the prime minister. In today's reconciliation meeting the two personages attempted to solve differences that have surfaced between the two against the backdrop of last week's trip to Washington last week. The foreign minister said that in the meeting they determined work procedures. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik spoke with Foreign Minister Peres a short time ago:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] [passage omitted] Mr. Peres, did you solve your differences of opinion with Mr. Rabin?

[Peres] We determined work procedures for the future. This is what I can tell you.

[Sukenik] Are you satisfied with the meeting?

[Peres] I do not want to describe anything. We determined work procedures for the future. Look, I am unwilling to discuss this on a personal level. I am only interested in whether we can act, and it would be better for the peace if we can work together. Nobody will divert me from my path. We determined work procedures which in my opinion will enable both the prime minister and myself—and both of us together—to work on the peace process.

[Sukenik] Are these new procedures which did not exist before?

[Peres] I do not want to answer that question.

[Sukenik] I must say you do not sound convinced that things will get better.

[Peres] So I do not sound convinced. After all, I am not obliged to convince you.

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[Sukenik] Are you convinced things will get better?

[Peres] I am convinced we can continue working for the advancement of the peace process.

[Sukenik] You were hurt, you were undoubtedly hurt.

[Peres] What do you want from me? Is this what you are interested in? Why do you keep asking these questions? Why is it important whether I was hurt or not?

[Sukenik] Because it appears as though this is a recurring pattern in your relations.

[Peres] Why is it important to you? Why is it important whether I was hurt or not?

[Sukenik] If there are glitches in your relations, does it not harm the peace process?

[Peres] We are talking here about work relations, and this is the main thing. We determined procedures which in my opinion will enable me to work. That's all.

[Sukenik] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Rabin Briefs Likud Leaders on Political Process

TA2907141494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin conferred with Likud leaders at noon and reported to them on the political processes.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that he and his colleagues stressed to Mr. Rabin their support for the agreement with Jordan and noted that when the public is united, Israel's stand is strengthened. Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the meeting was positive and may represent a shift in relations between the prime minister and the opposition. MK Moshe Qatzav believes the accord with the Jordanian monarch erodes the agreement with the PLO.

More on Rabin-Likud Meeting

TA3107122194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jul 94 p A3

[Report by Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Speaking with Likud leaders during a meeting initiated by him, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the Syrian stand has undergone no substantial change in the past two years and that it remains as rigid as ever.

Rabin described the disparities between the Israeli and Syrian stands, adding that Syria is willing to launch normalization only at the conclusion of the implementation of the agreement between the two countries and not at the outset. Rabin reiterated that for this reason, he wanted Secretary of State Warren Christopher to set out on his Syria-Israel shuttle tour at a later date.

The meeting with the Likud leaders was held at the prime minister's Tel Aviv bureau and lasted approximately 90 minutes. It was attended by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu; Likud Bureau Chairman 'Uzi Landau; Likud Knesset Faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav; and Likud Secretariat Chairman Yehoshu'a Matza. The participants were selected by Netanyahu. The Likud views the meeting as an attempt at reconciliation between the prime minister and the Likud in the wake of Rabin's remarks in Washington against "the bleeding hearts in both major parties." Netanyahu stayed away from the airport reception held for Rabin upon his return from the United States.

The Likud participants said the meeting's importance lies in the very fact that it was held. They reported that after Rabin's briefing, they voiced their reservations but refrained from launching a debate or engaging in an argument. Rabin reported on his U.S. trip, referring also to the Islamic fundamentalist threat and the situation in Syria.

Speaking at the meeting, Netanyahu raised the question of whether Labor and the Likud can reach a dialogue and an accord on future policy in the West Bank. He noted that the two parties disagree on the Golan Heights issue but are in tune on the agreement with Husayn and that "Gaza and Jericho are behind us."

Netanyahu noted that if the government is about to apply the Gaza autonomy model to the West Bank, "accord between us will be unattainable." If the prime minister plans "to do something else" in the West Bank, however, there may be room for a dialogue. Rabin did not react to the remarks and, according to Netanyahu, "he left the issue pending."

Netanyahu further told Rabin that rather than seek accord with the Likud, Rabin has magnified the discord, the rift, and the tension in recent months. Netanyahu told Rabin: "Look how different the situation is, both nationally and internationally, when we act in unison. We should at least try to determine whether there is some basis for a dialogue between us." Netanyahu noted that Rabin is opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and that there are vital areas he wishes to retain as Israeli territory. This may provide a basis for a dialogue, "although, since we have never reached a dialogue, it is somewhat difficult to be certain."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 31 July adds that "in a statement issued today, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says his party opposes the agreement with the PLO because it paves the road for a Palestinian state. Mr. Netanyahu calls on the prime minister to immediately launch a dialogue with the opposition with the aim of reaching a broad national agreement before the Gaza-Jericho agreement is implemented in Judea and Samaria, in order to ward off the dangers this entails.

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["Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, said this morning that his party may consider joining a national unity government if Rabin makes it clear that he will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state."]

Addressing the Jordanian issue, Rabin said that the United States had considered Syria the key element in the peace negotiations and that the State Department had doubted the prospects of the move with Jordan. In the end, it was President Bill Clinton's decision to believe in the Israeli move and to give it a chance. Clinton agreed that U.S. aid to Jordan in the form of a debt write-off would not be granted at once but would rather be spread over two or three years and depend on the progress of Husayn's peace talks with Israel.

Rabin said two issues were at the center of the contacts with Jordan: an end to the state of belligerency and Jordan's status with regard to the Temple Mount holy sites. Rabin said that on the first issue, Husayn's White House address, which spoke of an end to the state of war, surpassed even the Washington Declaration formula to which he had agreed. As for Jordan's status on the Temple Mount, Rabin said there was no talk of granting Jordan anything it did not have before and that the Washington Declaration merely formally verbalized Jordan's de facto status on the Temple Mount.

Asked by Netanyahu whether the pledge given to Jordan in the Washington Declaration did not contradict Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' letter to the PLO regarding the latter's standing in Jerusalem, Rabin pointed out that the Washington Declaration reflects Jordan's de facto status on the Temple Mount, although the issue was left open pending the negotiations on the permanent status.

The Likud spokesmen said they are more concerned about the growing PLO presence in Jerusalem than about the agreements with the PLO and Jordan. Knesset Member Landau said the government is not doing enough to curb PLO activities in Jerusalem, although it has ample tools to do so. Rabin replied that legal steps will be possible after the Knesset passes the law for the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement with the PLO, which includes a special clause banning political activities by the PLO in East Jerusalem. Last Wednesday, Justice Minister David Liba'i decided to postpone the vote on the bill, fearing he would not be able to muster a majority. The Likud is demanding that the "Jerusalem clause" be removed from the bill so that the clause can be supported as a separate bill. On the other hand, several Meretz, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and Arab Democratic Party representatives maintain that they will not support the bill for the implementation of the agreement with the PLO if it includes the "Jerusalem clause."

Rabin Suspends Modi'in Archaeological Dig

TA0208052894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin has decided to stop excavations at Modi'in until after a special meeting is held

with Israel's chief Sephardic rabbi, Eliyahu Baqshi-Doron. Hundreds of graves have been found in the area of the excavation work.

Earlier, the prime minister held consultations with several cabinet ministers who advised him to go ahead with work under heavy police protection, but Rabin rejected their proposal and has called for the excavations to be stopped until the meeting with the chief rabbi.

Residents of Jerusalem's Me'a She'arim neighborhood last night protested archaeological digs being conducted across the country. One policeman was lightly hurt by glass from a bottle that was thrown at him.

In Lod, police released 120 ultra-Orthodox Jews who had disrupted digging in the Modi'in area. The police said that they would open criminal files against the demonstrators.

The Israeli Association of Archaeologists has condemned what it calls Rabin's capitulation to the dictates of the ultra-Orthodox Jews.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT in Hebrew on 2 August adds that "the Jerusalem police last night thwarted attempts by a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews to desecrate the graves of the late President Hayim Ben-Tzvi and his wife. The police decided to set ambushes near the graves of Israel's founding fathers on Mount Herzl due to the tension over the archaeological excavations. Two ultra-Orthodox men were captured in possession of hammers and chisels, with which they planned to shatter the tombstones."]

1995 Defense Budget Expected To Grow 10 Percent

TA0108112994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Aug 94 p A4

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Excerpts] The Israeli shekel component of the 1995 defense budget is expected to rise by 10 percent in real terms, when compared with the 1994 budget. In 1994, the budget was first slated at 20.24 billion shekels, and was later updated to 20.4 billion. The initial estimate is that the 1995 budget will stand at 21.65 billion shekels. [passage omitted]

Rise in expenses is expected next year in the following clauses:

- A 3-percent rise in the budgets of the rehabilitation branch, due to a rise in the number of handicapped and improvements of the benefits given to the beneficiaries of the rehabilitation branch, which include widows, orphans, handicapped, and bereaved parents.
- A 6-percent rise in retirement payments.
- A significant rise in wages paid to the career soldiers and defense establishment workers. [passage omitted]

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—Funds for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] procurement and reinforcement. [passage omitted]

Political developments next year will have a significant impact on the IDF activity. According to the defense establishment's estimate, the Army is expected to save some 100 million shekels due to the implementation of the agreement of principles with the PLO, the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, a reduction in the volume of the Army's active duty tasks in the territories by several companies, and the release of Palestinian prisoners from military lockup facilities.

The impact of the agreements with Jordan on the IDF redeployment along the border with it are not yet clear. It may be assumed, however, that a redeployment will be required next year. This will create a demand for one-time funding of the transfer of bases and the redeployment of forces, but later there will be a drop in expenses on regular and reserve soldiers.

In real terms, the budget grew as a result of the receipt of military means from the United States and Germany such as 50 used F-16's, 10 Blackhawk helicopters, and Dolphin submarines.

Aloni Interviewed on Meretz, Coalition Issues

TA2907131994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
(LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 29 Jul 94 p 17

[Interview with Shulamit Aloni, minister of communications, science, and the arts, by Nehama Dowek at Aloni's house in Kefar Shemaryahu "last week"]

[Excerpt] [Aloni] As things stand today, I intend to run in the 1996 Knesset elections. At the same time I am willing to swear that I will not run in 2000.

[Dowek] Yosi Sarid said in a television interview that he considers himself the leader of Citizens' Rights Movement [a component of Meretz]. Who is the real leader?

[Aloni] Some people declare themselves leaders—and I wish all the Israeli people were leaders—but they must realize that leadership entails responsibility. Sometimes my lack of desire to concentrate power in my hands is interpreted as weakness. I have always delegated authority and shared privileges and have no desire for power. When Yosi came to me from the Labor Party I told him to assume responsibility and behave like a leader. My passions flare only when I notice distortions in areas I consider important.

[Dowek] Is Sarid building an alternative leadership in order to push you aside?

[Aloni] Some people think this is the case, and that's okay. After all, I will not live forever. The problem with Yosi is that he is impatient. Every person has his own character, dreams, creativity, and these qualities surface in times of trial. Yosi could have waited to receive everything in due time, especially since everything is

being handed over to him. Every leader has his own fifth columnist. Look at what happened to Refa'el Eytan and Rehav'am Ze'evi.

[Dowek] Do you love Yosi?

[Aloni] No. Love is a nonpolitical expression. We are political colleagues. We were never members of the same group. I reserve the word love for my family and a few friends. I love Sonia Peres. She is a wonderful woman who has provided Peres with support by building him a home where he can really relax.

[Dowek] You are in the midst of a crisis with Rabin after he signed the agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. What will happen?

[Aloni] I believe that wisdom will prevail and long-term thinking will overcome the pressure. I am committed to the decision of the Citizens' Rights Movement council and Meretz secretariat which have rejected the agreement. In a difficult phone conversation with the prime minister two weeks ago I urged him not to make things worse by signing things that Meretz cannot accept. I warned him.

There is no rush now. The Knesset is in recess and I suggest not rushing things. I see no objective reason to exert any pressure regarding this strange agreement.

There are 12 Meretz Knesset members [MK's] and Rabin cannot wave the peace issue in our faces. The hard part is done. I cannot understand Rabin's relations with Der'i and Rabbi Yosef. I cannot fathom how this man, Arye Der'i, can dictate to the government and why Rabin is ready to cause an earthquake on his behalf.

[Dowek] What is the root of the problem?

[Aloni] Lack of coordination and understanding. Rabin put these negotiations in the hands of Rafi Edri, who is on the one hand an interested party, but on the other lacks legal training. Even if some Meretz members approved the agreement, the party is entitled to reexamine itself.

Let me emphasize that even if some of our members made mistakes we still maintain that the party institutions must approve the agreement; it is not for individual members to approve it. The Labor Party has also completely changed the national health law approved by the government, thus causing Ramon's resignation. It then convened the central committee and changed the law once more. A party is entitled to reconsider and change things.

Yosi can claim to be a leader and approve the agreement, and so can Ya'ir Tzaban. When Rabin decided to sign the agreement with SHAS, however, he was obligated to invite me and officially inform Meretz about it. Rabin—who has coined the expression "indefatigable fifth columnist"—as a prime minister must not act behind a

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coalition partner's back. He should have shown me the agreement, and then I would have presented it to the party.

[Dowek] Perhaps he learned something from you, seeing that in a lightning move which caused a crisis with SHAS you inserted the Declaration of Independence into a law on human freedom and liberties, thus preventing the return of SHAS to the coalition at the time.

[Aloni] It is possible that this was a mistake on our part. Maybe we have really done something wrong. I was not privy to the affair. Adding the clause including the Declaration of Independence, however, does not constitute a constitutional revolution. Besides, all the Knesset, including SHAS, voted on that clause. Moreover, two wrongs don't make a right.

[Dowek] Is it possible that Rabin wants to punish you?

[Aloni] If Rabin thinks he is playing a game of "you pulled one on me, so now I will pull one on you" with us, he should realize this is a dangerous game. A leader should not behave this way. He must understand we do not want to force anything on the religious community, but the situation must be reciprocal. We will not agree to having the religious status quo anchored in legislation and that there be a law bypassing the High Court of Justice.

The present status quo, which the Citizens' Rights Movement has vowed to fight, includes discrimination on the basis of origin, race, gender, and religion. I cannot agree to have this status quo turned into law. We agreed to preserve the status quo when we entered the coalition and not to change it during the present term. We did not agree to preserve it forever.

I gave up the Education Ministry where I did a good job, because Rabbi Yosef wanted my head and promised there would be no more crises. I acquiesced in order not to harm the coalition. No more. I am unwilling to make any more concessions for Arye Der'i. They left the government not because of us, but because of Der'i's trial.

[Dowek] Will you veto the agreement, thereby creating a crisis?

[Aloni] I hope Rabin's reason will prevail. Our secretariat ordered us to oppose the agreement even if this means a veto, and we are committed to this decision. [passage omitted]

Investigation Into Kakh Training Youths for Combat

TA2907181794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Report by Nitzan Hen]

[Excerpts] Exactly five months ago today, the terrible massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs took place. The Kakh movement has been banned since then. Several of its leading figures are in administrative detention, and we thought that the movement itself had died, but that is not the case. This week, the first group completed a Kakh summer camp at Qiryat Arba'. Hot chocolate and sandwiches were not the fare. Aside from ideological lectures in the spirit of Me'ir Kahana and Barukh Goldstein, the youngsters were given a crash course in attacking Arabs. The movement's representatives invited journalists to cover the camp's activities, perhaps partly as a show put on for the cameras, but that show was scary. Needless to say, the footage was, of course, not filmed on the Sabbath. [passage omitted with film showing youngsters training in arms and remarks by youngsters and trainers]

Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir ordered an investigation into the organizers of the summer camp. The Education Ministry told us that the police and the local authority have been ordered to take immediate action to close the camp and to press charges against the organizers.

Tzvi Katzover, head of the local council for Qiryat 'Arba, in whose vicinity the camp was held, said that no Qiryat Arba' element was involved in the camp. Itamar Ben-Gibor, the spokesman for Kakh, which has officially been disbanded, said that the youth camp being run by Kakh is legal and that the weapons with which the youngsters trained are licensed.

King Husayn Meets Jordanian Media in U.S.

JN2907183294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Statement followed by news conference by King Husayn with the Jordanian press team accompanying him on his U.S. visit in Washington; date not given—from the "60 Minutes" program; recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] I am very happy to have this opportunity. I did not wish to leave Washington before having an opportunity to meet with you, my family and beloved ones in the Jordanian media, in these days that witnessed events and development, through which we all have lived, and are still living.

I am very proud of you. Please convey to the brothers in the dear homeland all my love, appreciation, and gratitude for their support and confidence. We beseech God almighty to help us serve them all the time and to fulfill our duty toward them and toward the future generations on the level of the homeland and the entire region.

Thanks to God, I believe we are on the threshold of a new phase in our life, in the life of Jordan, which had to face challenges and threats all the time, which was always at the forefront in making sacrifices, and which shared with its kinsfolk its bread and stood fast with dignity and pride.

Various thoughts come to the mind of an individual these days as he stands with the all the Jordanians on the threshold of a new phase in our life; as well as memories which come to mind—memories of what we have gone through. Praised be God for everything.

There is no individual, near or far, who can claim that he can match us in what we have done or offered in terms of duty, which we had to shoulder and which we continue to shoulder toward our people, our brothers, and cause on the national level and on the pan-Arab level.

As for Jerusalem, the most sacred of cities, which lives in our minds and hearts at every moment in our life, we remember, of course, the sacrifices of our young men, our martyrs on the walls of Jerusalem.

With the development of events, some people may forget or pretend to forget very clear facts and events, including the rescuing of Jerusalem, starting with 1948, the convoys of martyrs at that time, and the march, the pains, and the suffering, up to 1967, when an atmosphere of hysteria overwhelmed us all in the region, and when a war was imposed on us at an improper time and without the necessary and adequate preparations.

I remember my meeting with the officers and commanders at that time in the West Bank. Abu-Shakir [Zayd Bin-Shakir] was one of them. They remained in this battle. I told him: I am worried and not satisfied with the results. However, you should do the impossible so our heads will remain high. Was there any other

option? I do not think so, given the prevailing atmosphere, in addition to our commitment, since we are a member of the Arab League and the Collective [Arab] Defense Pact. We could not have waited any longer, because we used to say all the time that any aggression against any part of the Arab homeland is tantamount to an aggression against all of us.

At any rate, all of Jordan was liable to explosion, destruction, and extinction, God forbid. So we fought in a manly and honorable fashion. We endured the consequences. I remember that the military commander in Jerusalem and those who were with him did not leave until after he contacted the people of Jerusalem. The governor, may his soul rest in peace, and senior officials there and those who represent our kinsmen and family in Jerusalem, pleaded for the fighting to stop and the soldiers to leave, appreciating what those soldiers had done to preserve Jerusalem and our holy places in it. Hence, what happened later.

I remember our days in 1967. I was moving from one place to another along roads on whose sides were plenty of the victims of aggression and war, as a consequence of what happened. I remember our returning soldiers. I remember everyone of them. We were asked whether we had tried. Well, we did the impossible. As for the psychological state of the men and soldiers who fought the battle and performed their duty, I did not find, when I spoke to them, any grudge or pain on the part of any of them, except the fact that they regretted that they were not martyred in defense of land and right.

They then moved to the positions we had prepared for them. We reorganized matters. Then, they fought another battle in al-Karamah in defense of Jordan. I remember our national unity, how we preserved it and our insistence on preserving it and protecting it from any harm. There was a continuing suffering and searching for results for our efforts and hard work. These are part of our responsibilities toward future generations and toward our people, of which we are a part.

Should we leave the future to the unknown, or should we try to do our best, so the picture will change? Perhaps, things have taken a very long time. However, there was always a conviction that there must be a solution.

On the humanitarian level, it was the destiny of two peoples of the same origin to experience suffering and pains throughout history. These two peoples were put in such a situation that they clashed and offered so many victims. How can this humanitarian tragedy be addressed? All developments in the region... [changes thought] we were in charge and we kept adopting the same position and employing the same logic: Implementing the UN resolutions, specifically 242. For us, when matters were under our control and when we were directly in charge, we insisted on regaining all the territories occupied in 1967. Naturally, Jerusalem is part of these territories.

When we accepted [Resolution] 242, we were talking about the possibility of making some slight mutual changes in the then long armistice line, which existed before the June 1967 battle, if both sides agreed, or keeping to the same line.

We were relieved of this responsibility in 1974 due to Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic insistence. Despite this, we continued to do the impossible in order to support the brothers and kinsfolk, coordinate with them, and carry out our duty. However, one thing was excepted: They left us with the honor of continuing the duty toward the holy places in terms of Islamic endowment and other sanctities in the Palestinian territories. We always carried out our duty toward these holy places.

Jerusalem is the place where al-Husayn Bin-'Ali was laid to rest. Jerusalem and al-Aqsa, where 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn was martyred and won God's blessings and where God honored him by making him the martyr of al-Aqsa. On another level, the martyrdom of 'Abdallah, who saved al-Aqsa and the holy places with his army, symbolized misunderstanding, miscalculation, and ingratitude. However, 'Abdallah passed away, as many before him passed away on this path.

I do not want to talk in detail about recent years. We always sought a just peace acceptable to the generations. Now the picture after 1967 has changed, exactly as it changed before 1967 in various phases, beginning with the partition resolution to the situation we experienced until 1967. Circumstances were always stronger than us, and the lapse of time might have changed many things.

One thing did not change, however. What we have done was reflected in the eagerness of our Palestinian brothers and people, to whom we are the closest people, to have their own say in regard to their future, destiny, and cause. We accepted this in 1974, and continued to support them. We shall continue to support them all the time.

We would never forget the sacrifices of Egypt, the big sister of all of us, in terms of its human losses. Finally, Egypt found its path toward peace. The Palestinian brothers have taken the same road. I do not want to go into details. You are all aware of what is happening. The recent breakthrough, with all the changes in the world, originated at the same point. On the national level in Jordan, there was a large meeting. Then, we went to Madrid and then to Washington. Efforts continued after that until we reached this present stage. The same thing applies to the others.

This is the option of a just peace that reassures the people, one that makes each one of us reassured. I am not talking about myself personally, but about every citizen. It is the right of every citizen to live and to be reassured about his future and about his sons and daughters. If this is his right, then it is also the right of others as well, among those concerned in the same region, in terms of the human dimension. This peace will restore to every

citizen his right to his territory and water, to prepare himself for future challenges.

Throughout the life of Jordan, it has held its head high. We have also held our heads high. At the doors of peace, our heads shall remain high and we shall never bow except to almighty God. From the outset, we have experienced circumstances that made us accept what is abnormal as normal, in every aspect of our life. Perhaps, in this recent period, we have experienced a difficult reality in terms of our ability to absorb a new stage and a new situation in which we will turn to what is normal and what is right for us and for others in a way that contradicts what we have gone through. There is no other way and there is no alternative, if one wants to live with himself and his conscience. It is not a question of days or years. One would give something to the people whom he loves and lives with and performs his duty toward them.

These thoughts and this suffering continued for several years. Recently, and in the light of the reality and the responsibility, I felt we had to move, finally. Consequently, I had a meeting with the brother deputies who asked to meet with me and to speak through them to all our Jordanian family, and to stress to everyone that I am ready to sacrifice myself for my homeland and the family, which I shall always be proud to be a member of. We charted the road and we received support, backing, and understanding, and hopes rose within the overwhelming majority of the people. We moved, and met here with the Israeli prime minister and the U.S. President. We discussed all our issues and affairs and addressed the U.S. people and the world, in what we believe was a duty. We also addressed the reality, the backgrounds, and the hopes of the future. I believe that the walls we erected have been removed, the walls we set up that deprived us and prevented us in the past from seeing another face of the other side of the equation.

It seems to me that the picture is now different with the start of the forthcoming phase of negotiations and efforts to arrive at a satisfactory, complete solution, from all aspects, toward a new dawn. Once again, everyone is talking about, everyone is hoping, and everyone is working on achieving a comprehensive peace. But we are now addressing our issues and responsibilities for ourselves and our country, which has always been genuinely Arab in its dealing with the people, and has always been a pioneer in terms of sacrifices and giving, and which has not changed and will never change. With the same daring and courage that it has fought its battle since the beginning, it is now fighting the battle for peace. We beseech God to grant us success and that all the results will be beneficial.

I noticed recently that there are ...[changes thought] when we talk about Jordan and the Jordanians from various roots and origins, I, of course, do not talk about the exception or the people who may have a different opinion. But I think they are a small minority. I think,

and firmly believe, that the Jordanian individual in the village, the desert, and the city, and in the Armed Forces and everywhere, is much more educated than many people may imagine. He is even more educated than some groups which claim the right to represent and talk on behalf of the Jordanian people.

Some say there was no operation in which the people could state their views on the issue of the peace to which we aspire. I believe that the majority of the people support us and are for peace. When the picture becomes clearer, and, naturally, one wants to reach a peace treaty, this calls for referring it to the representatives of the people to have their say on the issue of peace. I will go farther than this. I am seriously thinking about going to the entire Jordanian people for a national referendum on the peace issue. I am from you and work for you. I have lived with you and for you. We have lived together all these years. There is no personal gain, or objective other than serving you. What I want is to reflect the hopes and ambitions in the heart and conscience of every individual, and serve with honor and perform our duty with honor. This is what God guides us to do.

We spoke to you about it. You can accept it or not. I am also part of the equation. We are not scared to have our entire people say what they want. We know this people. We belong to them and we are their conscience.

God willing, the results will be good. The foundations are solid. The march is serious, and the heads are raised high and we will bow our heads only to God almighty.

I bless you and greet you all. [applause]

[Amman AL-RA'Y Chief Editor Mahmud al-Kayid] Yes, we want peace out of conviction and faith, but without relinquishing any right. As you have said, sir, these days will be registered in history and will have significance in the future. There will be stability and development that will reassure people about their future and that of their sons. Once again, sir, we can only say, go ahead, with God's blessings. Our people are with us, our people are with their leadership without any hesitation and without considering any voices that want everything or nothing. We will get, God willing, everything, and our Jordanian citizen will be satisfied and reassured regardless of the loudness of the voice of the [word indistinct] Thank you sir.

[Amman AL-DUSTUR Chief Editor Nabil al-Sharif] Sir, we congratulate you on the Washington talks, which will, God willing, benefit Jordan and its cohesion and which will bring hope and benefits to the Jordanian citizens, God willing. Sir, history will admit that it is you who has preserved Jerusalem's Arabism and Islamic status. Were it not for Jordan's role over the past years, many Islamic shrines and many Arab Islamic sites in Jerusalem would have been driven into oblivion. This role you have played will be registered by history with bold letters. This will be a continuation of the Hashemite role and a continuation of the fact that has prevailed over the past

years. Every observer noticed the great respect you were accorded by the various political and media circles during the talks and the many meetings you held in Washington. This indicates the great love, respect, and appreciation you enjoy in international circles. It is also a respect for and acknowledgement of Jordan's role and its status and it clearly indicates that the importance of states cannot not be measured by their geographical size but by their roles and the importance of their investment of man's energies.

We, sir, are peace-seekers, and this is what we have learned from you. We are a peace-loving nation. Our nation, our religion, and our heritage urge peace. What has been achieved is a peace with which we have wrested our rights, a peace with which we have preserved our rights in all areas. It is also a just, honorable, and lasting peace, God willing. Sir, you have also tackled the issue of national unity. This issue is gaining further importance at this time. You also used every occasion, even the Washington talks, to refer to the people's confidence, awareness, and maturity. In fact, the people have proved they have absolute confidence in you and that you are the sponsor of the march and the convoy. As long as this confidence exists, the people will, God willing, continue their cohesion and awareness. However, what is needed now is more awareness and more maturity because the challenges of peace may be more serious than the challenges of war. Under the current circumstances, we are required, God willing, to benefit from the role of the media in the first place. We, the media family, will continue, God willing, our allegiance and will support this positive line you have drawn up. Thank you, sir.

[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B Chief Editor 'Abd-al-Salam al-Tarawinah] Allow me, Your Majesty, to say that during our meetings with observers and journalists who are watching developments on the Jordanian track, we told them that his majesty was expressing the conscience of our nation and all honorable people in our nation. His majesty was also addressing the conscience of the American nation. People thought that Jordan does not have any cards. However, in reality, we felt that there are many cards in the hands of Jordan. We had the upper hand [preceding two words in English]. We had a great, precious card, that is, his majesty. It was a precious, great card. We, as journalists, came with our colleagues to talk to press observers. They said one thing, but we told them another. I told them that we take pride in our Hashemite leadership and we all support it in this position. We have always maintained that matters are not settled in terms of cards. You are watching the cards that Jordan has. However, there are other cards. Our leadership is a plain and a mountain; a plain for people who understand it, who support it, and who are under the shadow of the Hashemite leadership and a rugged mountain for those who do not understand it. At a seminar, our colleagues spoke and the question was: Are we forced to make peace? I said that if there are two answers to any question, then it is this question. We are forced, and at the same time we are not forced. I want to replace the

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word forced by the word committed. We are committed to peace and to international legitimacy, which was accepted by the entire Arab nation, including the unions and all sectors of society. Some voices are raised at times, which only make noise. We respect others' views if they are in the interest of the homeland, but if it is mere noise outside this framework, then it is not important, because the march will continue. We asserted to our brothers, praise be to God, that we are now convinced and we have said this in writing. We have said that we have achieved a great deal, thanks to the wisdom and prowess of His Majesty King Husayn, the Hashemite leader. We have many cards, perhaps the most precious of these, which we greatly cherish in our heart, is the great Husayn and our Hashemite leadership. Thank you.

[Aamman AL-ASWAQ Chief Editor Mustafa Abu-Libdah] Your Majesty: In these moments during which we see history in the making, in the region in particular, in a way that preserves the role Jordan's leadership and people all aspire to, under your leadership and your vision, and the world's admiration that you have won for this country and this people, your majesty, we feel that in the battle for peace, there is something required from us, the citizens and institutions in Jordan. The process of change, as your majesty has said, and as everybody has said, requires all of us—individuals, institutions, parties, and social and economic forums—to be aware of the details and requirements of the next stage. We wish to hear from his majesty what program of action we are to follow in the future, whether in regard to the social and economic package, media language, communication between the people and the nature of the required thinking and behavior, so that we live in the next stage with its requirements and size, in line with what you hope for this people, and what we hope, under Your Majesty.

[Husayn] God bless you, sir. This is inevitable. We all have to work, with God's blessings. Dialogue is essential; work is essential. All energies and capabilities should be mobilized, in the way you have mentioned, to achieve our goals in the next stage. We have prepared for everything. Preparations are still under way. We are working to attain a just peace that restores our rights and the rights of others. Regarding the country and its needs and the problems it is facing, we should do our best to address these problems. On the domestic level, the people have demonstrated awareness and eagerness to perform their role toward the coming generations.

With respect to what we should do, or the objective, we wish that there will be a comprehensive and just peace. This is what we have called for, and this is what all are calling for.

We must preserve national unity. Frankly speaking, some recently said that we did not raise the issue of refugees. What refugees, brothers? We are relatives and one family that lives on this land. We suffered together. I want to ask: Can one distinguish between a refugee and

one who is not a refugee in the country, after we reached this state of affairs? Have we nothing else to do? We shared our bread during the tribulation that all of us faced. Naturally, we have to pursue our course. Otherwise, we will allow some to harm this national unity, God forbid, in one way or the other.

Brothers, I am convinced that this is the goal some seek to attain, so that they may achieve what they want, and we fail at the end of the road, and the effects will be a real setback, not for us and for the perpetuation of our policy and our stand but for the future in its broadest dimensions and on a level larger than the area of just Jordan.

We must persevere, safeguard our national unity, and build. At the same time, we should do our best. In the coming stages, everyone will be given the opportunity to choose, when he is asked to choose whether he wants to pursue the road with us, or to leave us. He will be free to find another course. But, we should not place him in a specific position. We should not search for a place for people that puts them in a position that we would not accept, either for them or for us.

Safeguarding national unity is an essential and important thing. It is not a transient thing. This represents a history, a struggle, and work. This is a duty.

On the issue of Jerusalem, there is an agreement, in which we are not a party. The issue of Jerusalem is to be dealt with in a later stage and within negotiations that we are also not party to. With respect to the holy shrines, we sincerely believe that sovereignty over Jerusalem should be for God almighty, not only over the Muslim shrines but over all the holy shrines in Jerusalem. These shrines should not be part of the present conflict. We have had the honor, in the past, of saving Jerusalem. We also have had the honor of defending our right and that of all the Muslims to Jerusalem.

Let us go to the past, and remember the Lebanese events at their beginning, go back to my statements, go back to my constant warning: O people, those who are behind these events, and those who seek to divide the ranks, are after Jerusalem, in order to get it one of these days. We are one family in Jordan, thanks be to God. We will remain one family.

We have experienced many incidents and sufferings without being their target. The objective was to weaken the Arab stand with respect to its historical right to Jerusalem at a certain stage. Who is responsible for this? Sir, we are not responsible for this.

Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, says: We appreciate Jordan's role. We appreciate the Hashemites' role concerning the performance of their duty toward these holy places. We fought him in 1948 and in 1967 and throughout all that period.

Compare this only on a humanitarian level with the other side of the picture. It seems that to some people

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even the acknowledgement that we have carried out a duty is something hard to say. It is a strange and painful thing.

Will I visit Jerusalem? Invitations were actually sent to me to visit Jerusalem some time ago, but I did not respond. When I feel, as a Muslim, a Hashemite, a Jordanian, and an Arab, that I have to visit Jerusalem, I will not request permission from anyone. I will not go there in response to an invitation from anyone. It is my right and that of each Muslim and Arab to visit Jerusalem or the holy Ibrahimi Mosque—the mosque of Ibrahim, the grandfather of prophets.

We thus want to do work, and we are ready to provide support with our capabilities and potentials. Others, however, have to give us an opportunity, so we can (?talk). God willing, the future will carry much that is good.

Returning to history, immediately after the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, and at a time when we and Syria were alone in the confrontation, and when we were proceeding on the path of unity and integration, who undermined this thing? Who worked behind our backs in Jordan? This led to the collapse of what we were trying to build. In whose interest was this? Even if we proceeded on our path and achieved our objectives at that time, would the picture of the whole region be the same as the one we see now?

Did the Afghan people, who fought under the slogan of religion and creed and saved the country [changes though!],...is this the picture we see now, while receiving reports of tragedies, fighting, damage, and destruction? Is this our religion? Are these the teachings of our religion? Is this the picture of this religion and this creed which is the sole justification for our existence?

I am not talking about the overwhelming majority of people. However, we have to [word indistinct]. We should keep our creed and religion away from politics, ambitions, and the attempts to assume power. This is our duty, if we actually fear God and seek to face and satisfy God almighty.

As for others, sir, who are political amateurs, do not read them. Some of these people lived that way. We have known them since the fifties, the sixties, and now. However, we can talk about others and raise our head high. When we hear from the people we fought that they appreciate the Arab [Jordanian] army and that they respect it and appreciate Jordan, and when we know that the status of this country in the entire world is larger than its size, this is not only the outcome of my work but also the result of the efforts of everyone. God be praised for all this.

All other things, sir, are in the process of being addressed in order to reach all the appropriate solutions, God willing, regarding the economy, the territories, and water. These are the beginnings of the road. The agenda

includes many topics that should be discussed. We are now at the beginning of this phase, in a serious and committed way. We pray to God to grant us success. However, we need the efforts of each one of you in his own field, so we can achieve what we wish and want, God willing.

There is still the road, and whether I will be there or not, my will to you all, the valiant ones, is to take care and be cohesive. I am with you, and I am for you and for the homeland. [applause]

[Journalist Salamah 'Ukur] Sir, in the historic moments we lived in Washington, whether at the U.S. White House or the Congress, we noticed and sensed that people's rights may not necessarily be regained through military battles and bloody wars. Peace battles are being waged successfully and efficiently, with political skill and wisdom, vigilance, and commitment to the constant principles of the position and to the people's rights, exactly as was done by both your majesty and our negotiating delegation, which managed to regain all Jordanian rights and scored successes under your sponsorship, supervision, and directives. These successes made the Jordanian people happy, and were welcomed by the majority of the Jordanian people.

[Husayn] I thank you, sir. I also thank you all, brothers. Please, my thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to all the kinsfolk and brothers in the homeland—my brother Prince Hasan who cabled me yesterday—and my brother members of our one large family of various origins and descents. My thanks, appreciation, and gratitude also go to our brothers who assumed the responsibility of negotiations throughout this lengthy period and who will continue to assume it in the future. I am always proud of Jordan, of you, and of my affiliation with you. I always think about you at each moment of life. You are great, God be praised. [applause]

Prince Hasan, Ministers Confer With Islamists

JN0208061294

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 1 August carries a 52-minute recording of a meeting grouping a number of Islamic Movement deputies, independent deputies, and the ministers of interior, awqaf and Islamic affairs, and justice held at Raghdan Palace on 1 August under the patronage of Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. According to the introductory report, the meeting aimed to "discuss and study some important issues, including sermons delivered by some deputies at mosques which dealt with the Washington Declaration and the tripartite summit that grouped His Majesty King Husayn, U.S. President Clinton, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin." Following the meeting, the report adds, Crown Prince Hasan received the conferees and addressed them on some of the topics they discussed at their meeting.

Prince Hasan says: "I yesterday sought the approval of his majesty—who sends regards to all of you—to make it

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very clear to all that the issue of preserving this unity does not proceed from the hope that his majesty's generosity [in issuing pardons] is practically the decisive and final result of every encounter between us."

The prince says: "I would like to say that the transition from the freedom of expression to self-restraint is recognized and acceptable in political literature. I believe that self-restraint is one of our Islamic traditions. As a matter of fact, I wonder whether it is a manifestation of self-restraint for people to deliver sermons, using derogatory epithets? Do the issues of debts, mismanagement, and corruption—to which reference is made—concern only a particular party in this country?"

Without referring to any particular preacher, the prince criticizes certain mosque preachers for the language they used in their sermons. He says: "It is my responsibility to say while the king of the country is abroad—and every time he travels abroad, I take the oath before the Cabinet to preserve the Constitution and be faithful to the nation—that this language is strange to us."

Referring to the position of certain forces that oppose the peace process, the prince says: "As I have said, the issue of war and peace may at a certain stage mean the lesser of the two evils. The pain and grief that fill my heart and the heart of King Husayn over the conditions of this nation may, with all respect, be much more than that which fills the heart of any of you. But do we allow ourselves to express in public our feelings in an improper language."

The prince adds: "The circumstances—which if we believe as one team are critical and difficult—are the same circumstances, which if we permit, God forbid, any form of division or sedition to affect our national unity and close ranks, that will allow the enemies of this nation to encroach on our Arab and Islamic identity."

Parliamentary Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] asserts that the IAF "never was in opposition to his majesty the king; we even do not represent permanent opposition; ours is not a permanent opposition; it is an opposition to a given government position or policy." He goes on to argue that this stage calls for solidarity and patience on all sides. He commends the Jordanian Armed Forces and rejects personal and other aspersions, while the IAF reserves the right to criticize some practices, based on a Constitutional right. Jabr then extols national unity the defense of which is a "sacred duty" that any tampering with ranks as a "betrayal of God and his messenger".

Next to speak is Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, who contends that "there have been certain irregularities that crossed red lines", and goes on to declare: "We will not allow it." Hammad says: "For the sake of the security of this country, our duty is to not allow sedition or any tampering with national unity or any aspersions on our Armed Forces or our Security agencies, which are dedicated to maintaining the security of the country."

He discloses that certain irregularities have been identified and substantiated and these cannot possibly be approved by the legislators. The minister points out that he had emphasized to them that the government was not against opposition as such, but against transgressions against the law. Hammad stresses that the government did not take any measure in breach of the law, nor directed that administrative governors or police take any action. "We will not allow the security or the national unity of the country to be infringed upon by anyone," the minister emphasizes.

Next to speak is Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi who begins by exalting Jordan as "a Muslim, Hashemite land anxious to fulfil its cultural message and role in serving the nation." The mosque, he says, has a message in educating the nation in middle-of-the road precepts of Islam. He notes that there exists a law in Jordan, passed by the deputies, that the mosque should not be used as a place to exercise political party activity. The minister points out that the mosque forum ought to be a rallying rather than a divisive platform for Muslims. Nor should it be used as a forum to propagate inaccurate information that might foment sedition and create problems. Al-'Abbadi emphasizes that any activities carried out inside the mosque should be worked out in advance within the framework of laws and regulations. He suggests that further such sessions be convened to discuss specific issues and to work out guidelines to spare the country any future trouble.

IAF Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant speaks for less than a minute. He says: "We are one team and one family." He then calls on the government to "accept constructive opposition."

IAF Deputy Hammam Sa'id also speaks for less than a minute. He says: "I am one of those who believe that what is taking place is very serious, because, as they say, we are really weak. Our society is weak in the face of the American, capitalist, and Jewish onslaught. Therefore, we reached these solutions and this situation. I am really surprised how this weak society can face this stage and such forces."

Prince Hasan responds in a loud voice, saying: "These words show that you are dissatisfied with the entire move. You mentioned Jerusalem now." The prince adds: "Should we disagree on the fact that we should adhere to our Islamic rights in Jerusalem?"

Independent Deputy Anwar Muhammad Minwir al-Hadid reviews the role of the Hashemites toward Jerusalem and the efforts of King Husayn and Prince Hasan to highlight the importance of Jerusalem. He adds that Jordan has chosen "this bitter option" because none of its Arab brothers remained with it in the arena.

IAF Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur reviews King Husayn's meeting with the deputies, noting that the opposition is from within this society. Al-'Ukur says:

"Your Highness, we agree on many things. This stage is imposed on us." He adds that the sons of this homeland should be given the chance to show the cultural contradiction between us and the Jews. Al-'Ukur then appeals to the prince to understand his brothers because "the situation is really deteriorating," adding that "the picture is dark, but we should search for positive points."

Justice Minister Hisham al-Tall speaks about legal procedures to face any violations, affirming that the Justice Ministry is neutral in dealing with any case and works in accordance with laws to preserve security.

Hasan Meets With Islamic Front, Independent MP's

JN0108201394 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 1 Aug 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Members of Parliament of the Islamic Front and independent MP's opposed to the peace talks with Israel met at Raghadan Palace with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and with a number of cabinet ministers.

Before meeting the regent, the MP's talked to the Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad, the Minister of Waqf 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi, and the Minister of Justice Hisham al-Tall.

The meeting focused on some of the MP speeches in mosques, which touched on the Washington Declaration, and the king's summit with the Israeli prime minister.

A spokesman for the Islamic Front, Hamzah Mansur, presented the Islamic Front's remarks on the Washington summit. He said they are opposition MP's, and that they abide by the Constitution. They also asked the government to continue its dialogue with the front, and to treat them as representatives of the nation.

The minister of interior spoke about some of the activities by the front, which he said infringed upon Jordanian fundamentals. The MP's later met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent:

[Begin recording of Prince Hasan in Arabic, with superimposed English subtitles] As a matter of fact, in the course of addressing what was termed political—and here I would like to once again thank his excellency the minister of justice, who reminded us that there are no politicized terms, such as responsible freedom, constants, and red lines when judicial affairs are examined—I would like to say that the transition from the freedom of expression to self-restraint is recognized and acceptable in the political literature. I believe that self-restraint is one of our Islamic traditions. As a matter of fact, I wonder whether it is a manifestation of self-restraint for people to deliver sermons, using [derogatory] epithets. [end recording]

State Minister on Cabinet Meeting, Jerusalem

JN0108140794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] The Cabinet today held a session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. During the session, the Cabinet listened to a report by the prime minister on the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington.

After the session, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, spoke to reporters. He said:

[Begin recording] The Cabinet this morning listened to a report presented by the prime minister on the results of His Majesty King Husayn's trip to Washington and on the great positive results of this historic and important visit.

The prime minister presented details on the results of his majesty's trip; his efforts, which were the focal point of this royal visit, and its great and historic results, starting with the tripartite summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, as well as the other meetings with senior U.S. officials, and the great historic event represented by His Majesty King Husayn's address at the joint meeting of the U.S. Congress House of Representatives and Senate and the basic points and important details of this royal address.

The prime minister also reviewed the important clauses of the Washington Declaration—one of the basic fruits of the royal visit—which clarified many issues of importance to Jordan and affirmed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's return to exorcizing its sovereignty on its territories, borders, and waters. Moreover, these clauses are identical to resolutions of international legitimacy, especially UN Security Council Resolution 242, to which Jordan adheres. Jordan was one of the countries that took part in formulating this resolution. It was also the first country to accept this resolution after the 1967 war. This resolution and its clauses are the factor, nucleus, or basic foundation of the entire peace process, which was launched during the Madrid conference.

His Majesty King Husayn's historic address also included his majesty's reiteration of Jordan's national constants, which include the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's return to exercising its sovereignty on all its occupied territories, borders, and waters. Moreover, the address placed emphasis on the sacrifices made by Jordan and the Hashemite family for the sake of the Palestinian cause, Palestine, and the holy places in Jerusalem.

In his statements at the joint meeting, which is a historic turning point, his majesty also stressed that Jordan abides by international legitimacy and by the principles of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region. His Majesty King Husayn highlighted the comprehensive nature of a solution which future generations will accept.

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Of course, in the briefing he submitted to the cabinet today, his excellency the prime minister referred to the many positive results of the royal visit, including those attained on the political, economic, and financial levels, among others. All this is the result of his Majesty King Husayn's efforts which were the central and main element in this historic trip.

The cabinet praised his majesty's significant and important efforts which brought about the great results of the visit. The cabinet also praised the positive results the royal visit has made; results attained thanks to all these efforts and the meetings which took place at all levels. The cabinet showed appreciation for the visit and for the positive results it produced which will positively reflect on all sectors in Jordan.

His excellency the prime minister also reviewed the details of the Washington Declaration, and the cabinet carefully discussed many of the clauses of this important declaration, as I explained at the beginning of my statement. The cabinet looked closely at the third clause which refers to Jordan's jurisdiction over the holy shrines in Jerusalem. This clause gives the Hashemites a special role with respect to religious jurisdiction over the holy shrines during the final stage of negotiations on Jerusalem.

It goes without saying that the clause has reiterated an existing right for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and has not established a new right. The political and geographic jurisdiction concerns the PLO in accordance with the Rabat summit resolution which Jordan accepted and by which it abides, in accordance with an Arab and Palestinian request, and also on the basis of the legal and administrative disengagement decision of 1988, which excluded al-awqaf [religious endowments], Muslim shrines, and Shari'a courts from this decision in order not to create a vacuum through which any party could reach these holy shrines which Jordan has protected for a long time.

The PLO blessed and supported this exclusion decision. Jordan continued to perform its duties of caring for these holy shrines and the Hashemites' work can be seen in the renovation operations, the latest being the third Hashemite renovation operation. Thus, the religious jurisdiction has existed and exists now. The third clause of the Washington Declaration confirms the importance of this role and gives it the credit it deserves. Thank you. [end recording]

Referendum 'Best Response' to Anti-Peace Forces

JN0108102194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Aug 94 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Washington Summit Results Crown Jordan's Struggle"]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali appropriately described the historic Washington summit and its important results when he said that the summit

was a crowning of Jordan's continued struggle for decades to regain its rights to territory, water, security, economic prosperity, and stability.

Thanks to the results of this summit, whose importance was tantamount to a major international event, Jordan has come as close as it can to fully regaining its rights, reaping the fruits of its steadfastness, sacrifices, and long struggle, and having absolute control over its destiny at present and in the future.

Moreover, the results of this summit reaffirm Jordan's right to religious sovereignty over the holy places without any encroachment, from near or far, on the Palestinian people's struggle and their rights. Jordan strongly supports these rights, especially the Palestinian people's right to occupied Arab Jerusalem.

From this premise, we find the clamor over what came in the Washington Declaration regarding the holy places in Jerusalem and Jordanian religious sovereignty over these places quite strange. This is especially since Jordan has been exercising the right to religious sovereignty over these holy places since 1948, and even before this date, and continued to do so even after the 1967 war.

Throughout this long period of time, Jordan adopted many measures to maintain the Arabism of Jerusalem and its Islamic identity. It did so when it excluded the Islamic holy places from its disengagement decision in 1988 and continued to live up to its responsibilities toward these holy places with everyone's knowledge and without anyone's objection.

Today, as Jordan prepares to regain its rights, there are some who still cast doubts on this very clear fact, especially on the part of leaderships, organizations, and institutions which thrive on instability and are most disturbed by peace and security.

Perhaps His Majesty King Husayn's willingness to hold a popular referendum on the peace option is the best response to all those who cast doubts—who realize, more than anyone else, that the people, who supported their leader during all previous tests, will continue to support King Husayn until Jordan achieves what it has always sought to achieve in terms of loftiness, security, progress, and stability.

Communist Paper Criticizes Declaration

JN0108115694 Amman AL-JAMAHIR in Arabic 1-14 Aug 94 pp 1, 11

[Unsigned Political Analysis: "And Now We Ask... What is Peace"]

[Text] A few months ago, the world witnessed on television the historic handshake between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in the White House gardens.

Last week, it was announced to the entire world from the same gardens that Jordan and Israel reached an agreement to terminate the state of war once and for all.

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In both events, the Israeli prime minister stood up to enumerate Israel's sacrifices for peace and to mourn its martyrs in the Arab-Israeli war in a tremulous voice and in words dripping with grief and sentimentality.

As for the martyrs of Palestine, from the turn of this century until now, there was no one to mourn them on these two occasions.

In the White House gardens, Palestine and Jordan had their attention focused on the future of peace and the benefits to be gained from it. They failed to recount the history and pains of the wars that led to this peace.

The audience warmly applauded these two historic events, and the world observed with awe the unfolding of the chapters of the transformation of enmity into amity in the most protracted conflict of this century. While the Arab participants and those who attended the peace festivals in Washington avoided mentioning the causes and history of the protracted and bloody conflict in the Middle East, Rabin took care not to forget this.

The Israeli prime minister delivered a very eloquent sermon on the (war of independence) and on (Israel's defensive wars), on the Jewish blood that had left its imprint on the Old City's walls, and a trail along the road that led to it. He also recited psalms about love and peace.

The difference in approach between the Arab and Israeli sides in the Washington celebrations has nothing to do with a weak memory, or the code of conduct observed on official occasions, but has to do with the real meaning and the actual essence of the peace that was reached.

It is true that the Middle East really does need peace after being involved in wars and bloodshed, and after paying a prohibitive price in terms of liberation, resources, and the lives of its sons. Following five Arab-Israeli wars, much destruction, death, and many wounded, our Arab people, our Palestinian people, and the Israeli people have a right to dream of peace, and to struggle so that they will step from the 20th century into a world with no wars and where they will enjoy a dignified and secure life in a proud homeland where the future of their sons will also be guaranteed.

Yes, we all need freedom, development, security, and peace. However, those who celebrated the Middle East peace in Washington spoke about everything except the conditions, requisites, and guarantees of a peace that the people will accept and that will fulfill their dreams.

Has the Washington Declaration that was signed by Jordan and Israel achieved these peace objectives?

For its part, Israel won recognition, the termination of the state of war, and obtained a commitment for full normalization of relations. But, it kept the land and the water and made sure that the Palestinian refugees file has been shelved.

From its part, Jordan offered recognition, ended the state of war, pledged to normalize relations, and obtained a U.S. promise to cancel some of its debts and an Israeli pledge to negotiate on the land, borders, and water.

Therefore, we are in a position that has been completely reversed. Logically, peace between warring parties is achieved only after occupation is terminated and rights are restored. But, the Jordanian-Israeli peace that was announced in Washington has nothing to do with such a logic.

Israel took everything from Jordan without committing itself to anything!!

Despite all of this, Jordan has made peace with Israel and embarked on comprehensive negotiations with it. Jordan is now preparing to open its borders and build public parks and a network of tourist and service projects with Israel in the Ghawr region, even though Jordan has not restored one inch of its territory or one cubic meter of the water usurped by Israel.

Above all, Jordan has ended the state of war with Israel and is preparing for full normalization while the Palestine question is still unresolved. More serious still is that Jordan has agreed to isolate religion from politics in the question of Jerusalem. It has given Israel a chance to transform this issue from a pivot in the Arab-Israeli conflict into a point of Palestinian-Jordanian disagreement.

Things are completely reversed in this state of peace between Jordan and Israel. Official Jordan is working hard to create pretexts for this state. Therefore, it finds it unavoidable to reverse facts and talk at length about "historic" achievements that have not been made yet. Thus, official Jordan has just discovered that our boundaries are not international, that part of our territory has been occupied for a quarter of a century, that Israel has been stealing our water for 30 years, and that Jordan in the "peace battle" has wrenched Israeli recognition of its entity as a state and agreement to negotiate over its water and land after the signing [of a peace treaty] and normalization.

What official Jordan does not want to say is that ending the state of war with Israel and full normalization with it was not the outcome of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. Rather, it was in response to U.S. conditions for lifting the al-'Aqabah siege, writing off half a billion dollars of Jordan's foreign debt, and lifting a ban on some financial and technical aid.

This fact is as clear as daylight. This is why the United States has promised Jordan some economic gains in exchange for peace with Israel. As for Israel, it has secured peace without making any commitments to Jordan.

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What has been achieved on the ground is opening of borders, trade ties, joint projects, and security cooperation. As for Jordan's national rights to water and territory, they are the subject of open negotiations that could go on for decades.

An objective reading of the Washington Declaration shows it is a perfectly unilateral solution, even if Jordan should regain its purely national rights.

Although the Washington Declaration refers clearly to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis of peace with Israel, the success of the United States and Israel in dismantling the components of the Arab-Israeli conflict, shattering the Arab position, and establishing firmly the approach of unilateral solutions has rendered these resolutions a theoretical frame of reference subject to Israeli interpretation.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace has started with what these resolutions do not speak about, namely, economic relations, joint projects, and security cooperation, and postponed what these resolutions stipulate, such as ending occupation and usurpation of rights. Official Jordan is now busy telling the people the good news about resolving the economic crisis and asking them to wait for the dividends of peace. The experience of others before us, however, is no cause for optimism. In addition, economic laws assert that economic boom and recession are primarily governed by the economy's own structures and forces, and not by just writing off some debt and extending some aid.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is a historical conflict whose pivot is the Palestine question, the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and Israeli disregard for Arab rights and interests.

Any solution that does not end Israeli occupation and guarantee Palestinian and Arab rights will not be viable.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects Washington Declaration

JN0108181194 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1415 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Urayb al-Rantawi dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood has voiced its express and unequivocal rejection of the concessions and pledges made on the Jordanian track. The Brotherhood also rejected the Washington Declaration and any ensuing manifestations of normalization. These manifestations, the Brotherhood said, are already emerging, accompanied by Zionist cunning, malice, and spite.

These remarks were made by the movement's new controller general 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat at a news conference held this morning at the Brotherhood's offices in Amman.

Dangling the prospect of economic development, the statement added, in effect, amounts to selling, misrepresentation, and a throwing away of rights in exchange for illusory promises.

He indicated that the decline in the fortunes of Arab and Muslim peoples must be blamed on their governments rather than on the people themselves. Politically and logically speaking, our current state of weakness should not necessarily lead to meeting the conditions of the aggressors.

The statement reiterated the Brotherhood's definition of the struggle with the Zionists as one between two diametrically opposed agendas—the Islamic agenda with right on its side and the Zionist agenda attacking it. Hence the Brotherhood's stands on the Madrid formula and the Palestinian and Arab regimes' accommodation of the American-Zionist wishes.

Al-Dhunaybat emphasized that resistance to these regressive steps will be comprehensive and felt on all levels. In the meantime, the Brotherhood will stay committed to a legitimate management of the conflict. As Islamists, we refuse to clash with Arab regimes and will steer clear of this option. However, we refuse to allow our governments to play the role of guards watching over Zionist dreams, which we will exercise our legitimate right to resist.

It is to be recalled that, with 16 seats in the Jordanian 80-member House of Representatives, the largest political party in Jordan, the Islamic Action Front [IAF], is an offshoot of the Brotherhood. Our station has learned that both the Brotherhood and the IAF are debating whether to remain or withdraw from the House to protest the steps Jordan has taken with Israel.

Al-Dhunaybat became controller general of the Brotherhood only recently after a 40-year tenure by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah. A recent shakeup in the Brotherhood's hierarchy saw hawks gain over doves. Pragmatists, or so-called doves, however, remain dominant in the Brotherhood's Executive Bureau and Shura Council.

Brotherhood Leader on Status, Peace, Jerusalem

JN0208103394 *Amman JORDAN TIMES in English* 2 Aug 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood, officially registered as a charity and social organization, is insisting that it has the right to address political issues in the Kingdom but rejects that the government treats it as a political party.

Newly-elected leader of the movement 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat says the Brotherhood's right to be involved in the political affairs of the Kingdom is one

granted by Islam, which does not separate between religion and the state, and legitimised by the 48 years of active political history of the movement in the Kingdom.

"The Muslim Brotherhood derives its legitimacy from Islam, which does not separate religion from politics and it has not stopped practising political activities since 1946," when it was formed, Mr. al-Dhunaybat told a press conference Monday.

The press conference was the first in which the Brotherhood addressed a major political issue in the Kingdom since the formation of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) as its political arm in 1992 when the Political Parties Law went into effect.

The law restricts political activity to political parties which are forced to declare their sources of income and banned from having links with outside parties. The Muslim Brotherhood movement is a world-wide movement that follows the teaching of the 1930s Egyptian scholar, Hasan al-Banna, the founder of the movement.

"We refuse to be treated as a political party," Mr. al-Dhunaybat said, adding that the Brotherhood's mission is a comprehensive social one that does not separate politics from religion.

"Islam is a religion and a state, a Koran and a sword," said Mr. al-Dhunaybat, who was elected to the top position in the Brotherhood last month.

At the press conference, Mr. al-Dhunaybat reiterated the Brotherhood's ideological rejection of the peace process and all agreements that might result from it. He added that opposition to the peace talks also stems from concern for the interests of the Kingdom.

But he said opposition to the talks, specially on the Jordanian track, would be expressed through constitutional and "Sharia-approved" channels.

Accusing the government of "marginalising" the opposition and the Lower House of Parliament and suppressing opposing points of view, Mr. al-Dhunaybat warned that one "of the options" available to the IAF to protest this policy is the resignation of its 16 representatives in Parliament.

Mr. al-Dhunaybat said that "some" IAF deputies—'Abd al-'Aziz Jabr and Muhammad al-Haj—were referred to the prosecutor general last month after being accused of harming national unity during Friday sermons before the historic meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington on July 25.

But he said the issues were shelved after contacts were made with the concerned authorities.

"Mosque preachers are being denied their right to express their views from the forum of the Prophet of God. We demand that they be allowed to say their

word," he said warning that "we would raise the voice of opposition if this does not stop."

Informed sources confirmed that some IAF deputies were referred to the prosecutor general and the issue was resolved during a meeting between opposition parties and Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi before the Washington Summit.

They said one of the deputies issued a religious ruling during his sermon that legitimised "shedding the country's blood" while the other's sermon criticised the Armed Forces.

The sources said that Mr. al-Hindawi told the opposition during the meeting that the government tolerates legal opposition to the peace talks but will not allow opposition that could lead to disturbances in the Kingdom. They said the sit-in staged by the opposition on July 25 to protest the Jordanian-Israeli summit was approved during the meeting.

Mr. al-Dhunaybat told the press conference the Islamic movement will lead an effective opposition to the peace talks, saying that "if the official wall (against normalisation with Israel) falls, the popular front will be solid in its opposition to all forms of normalisation."

Mr. al-Dhunaybat said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, asserted "out role in political opposition," during a meeting that Prince Hasan called with the leadership of the Brotherhood to congratulate them "on the confidence of the brothers" in the elections for the movement's shura council last month.

Addressing the reference to Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration, Mr. al-Dhunaybat rejected the separation between religious and political sovereignty over Jerusalem because accepting the Israeli recognition "of (Muslim) religious and not political sovereignty over Jerusalem amounts to giving up" the Holy City.

He said the Brotherhood considers accepting only religious sovereignty over Jerusalem "which is as sacred as Jafa and Haifa" amounts to recognition of the legitimacy of the Jews.

Referring to the controversy between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over the Holy City, Mr. al-Dhunaybat said "Jerusalem has always been a uniting factor for Muslims and we will not accept that it becomes a reason for conflict."

Mr. al-Dhunaybat said the brotherhood welcomes a plebiscite on the peace process if it will be fair and free. But he added that such a plebiscite should have been carried out before the start of negotiations with Israel.

Asserting that the movement is concerned with national unity and the well-being of the Kingdom, the Brotherhood leader said his movement was worried about the "undemocratic practices" of the government.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Jerusalem Issue

JN0108175894 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1415 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Asked by the Voice of Palestine correspondent in Amman about religious jurisdiction over Jerusalem, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, general controller of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, has said: Jerusalem is part of the land of Palestine. We refuse to give up a single iota of it. Al-Dhunaybat added: Religious and political

sovereignty is one thing and any separation between them is considered a relinquishment of Jerusalem and the holy shrines.

Al-Dhunaybat added in his answer to the Voice of Palestine correspondent: Removing Jerusalem from the conflict under the pretext of separating the political jurisdiction from the religious jurisdiction is considered a religious violation. This, he added, is Zionist blackmail aimed at creating the sedition of the past few days.

Israel Reportedly Agrees To Refrain From Attack*NC0108125394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 1 Aug 94*

[Text] Our correspondent in Washington has reported that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has made a telephone call to his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres. During the call, it was agreed that Israel will refrain from initiating any large-scale military operation in Lebanon that could compromise the peace talks pending Secretary Christopher's return to the region, which is scheduled on 8 August. The two agreed to look into the matter once again after the visit.

The same sources [as heard] added that Washington does not object to isolated operations by Israel even in areas far from the hotbeds in Lebanon. The Americans told the Israeli side that a tour by Secretary Christopher under the present circumstances would have much better results in giving momentum to the Syrian track than if it were made following an Israeli military operation.

Hizballah: Israelis Trained To Kill Nasrallah*NC0108160894 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 21*

[Text] Security agencies in Lebanon's Hizballah have uncovered a network of Israeli agents trained to assassinate Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and his senior aides. Lebanese sources have stated that the network includes 13 people who were trained by Israeli intelligence officers.

Former Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi and his family were killed by Israel two years ago during an air strike against al-Musawi's car as he returned from the funeral of a Lebanese Resistance martyr.

Hizballah Warns of 'Retaliation' for 'Aggression'*MM0108132894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
30 Jul 94 pp1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "Israel Threatens To Use All Means To Hunt Down Terrorists Wherever They Are"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, occupied Jerusalem, Tehran, Buenos Aires, London, Amsterdam, AL-HAYAH, AFP, Reuter—Israel yesterday made more threats against Iran and Hizballah and spoke of its "legitimate right" to "use all means.... anywhere in the world." Meanwhile, the Iranian authorities condemned U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statements calling on U.S. allies to isolate Iran economically and defeat Hizballah.

In Beirut, Hizballah's leadership held an extraordinary meeting attended by those in charge of Islamic resistance operations. It discussed political and security developments. Hizballah then issued a statement reaffirming its right to resist occupation. It said that the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher "took him out of the domain of diplomatic tradition,

because he used the language of a gangster" and that was tantamount to "a full cover for large-scale aggression against Lebanon, its people, and its resistance." It held the United States "responsible for any possible Zionist aggression." It also emphasized that "any U.S.-Zionist aggression would be no picnic and would not pass without appropriate retaliation. The resistance, which has proved itself capable of doing that, warns the enemy and his supporters of the consequences of any operation, because their luck would not be any better than previous times." [passage omitted]

Amal Claims Attacks on Israeli Positions in South*NC0208054794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0315 GMT 2 Aug 94*

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance Movement, Amal, has announced that one of its groups attacked the Kafr Falus Barracks around midnight last night. It destroyed a troop carrier and a halftrack. Another group attacked the Saydun position, inflicting casualties among personnel manning the position.

Following these attacks, the Israelis returned fire with artillery and mortars.

Minister Denies Presence of Terrorists in Lebanon*NC0208060194 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Aug 94*

[Text] Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin has affirmed that there are no terrorists or terrorism in Lebanon. Al-Amin declared that if resisting the occupation to liberate our territory is terrorism, then our children, women, and old men are in this sense terrorists.

'Terrorist' Killed by SLA in South Lebanon*NC0208074994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic
0700 GMT 2 Aug 94*

[Text] A terrorist was killed near Bra'shit in the western sector this morning. According to security reports, a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol opened fire on a terrorist group trying to infiltrate the border area in order to mine the roads. During a search this morning, the patrol discovered the body of the terrorist, his weapon, explosive charges, and a remote control detonator. An SLA engineering unit detonated the bombs.

Lebanese Terrorist Implicated in London Bombings*MM3107090494 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
in English 31 Jul 94 p 1*

[Report by Con Coughlin: "'Iran's Carlos' Behind UK Bombs"]

[Text] A Lebanese terrorist known as "Iran's Carlos" has been identified as the mastermind behind a worldwide campaign of terrorism against Jewish institutions that resulted in last week's bombings in London.

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Imad Mughniyih, who played a leading role in the Lebanon hostage crisis and has a long history of involvement in international terrorism, has emerged as a key figure in the investigation into the bombing of the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish community centre.

Mughniyih was a founder member of Hizbollah, the radical Islamic fundamentalist organisation based in Lebanon, and was personally responsible for kidnapping Terry Waite and the other British hostages. He has also been identified as the architect of the bombing of a Jewish organisation in Buenos Aires two weeks ago, in which 96 people died.

Investigators also suspect he was involved in the bombing of a Panamanian jet soon afterwards in which all 21 people on board perished, including a group of 12 Jewish businessmen.

Mughniyih did not travel to Buenos Aires or London but was instrumental in planning and training aides for the attacks. According to intelligence sources in the Middle East, London and the United States, Mughniyih has been put in charge of a special unit in Teheran to orchestrate terrorist attacks against "soft" Jewish targets around the world.

Israeli sources in Jerusalem last night confirmed the Mossad team which arrived in Britain this weekend to investigate the London bombings had brought a list of suspects they believe may have been responsible.

This included the name of a Palestinian woman who may have parked the Audi which blew up the Israeli embassy. Israeli intelligence sources believe the woman, whose husband and son were killed during a clash with the Israelis four years ago, planted the bomb in revenge. Mughniyih fled to Iran from Lebanon in the mid-1980's to escape attempts by the CIA to capture him and bring him to trial in the United States.

American officials believe they had proof that Mughniyih was behind the blowing up of the American Embassy in Beirut in April 1983 and the bombing of the American and French military barracks the following October, in which more than 300 people were killed. He was also responsible for the kidnapping of two dozen American citizens in Beirut. Mughniyih's tag of "Iran's Carlos" is a reference to the KGB-trained Carlos who was behind a series of anti-Israeli terrorist attacks in the 1970's. Mughniyih has kept a low profile since the Lebanese hostage crisis was resolved three years ago, posing as a businessman. But following a power struggle in Teheran which has resulted in radical ayatollahs acquiring more influence, Mughniyih has been hired to organise a worldwide campaign against Jewish and Israeli targets.

Iran has consistently opposed the peace dialogue initiated in Washington last September, when the PLO leader Yasser 'Arafat and the Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin shook hands on the White House lawn.

Now that the peace process is showing tangible results, with the Palestinian enclaves of Jericho and Gaza receiving limited autonomy, the Iranian leadership has launched a worldwide terrorist campaign to undermine it.

With Rabin vowing to hunt down those responsible for the bombings in South America and London there are fears that a new wave of terrorist and counterterrorist incidents will soon sweep through Europe's capitals.

"The bombings in Argentina and London are not isolated incidents," said one Middle East intelligence expert. "They are part of a systematic campaign that has been launched, with Iran's backing and using Mughniyih's expertise, to attack Jewish and Israeli targets around the world."

After the bombing in Argentina the Israeli Government was convinced that Iran was responsible. Subsequent inquiries have given strength to this theory. One of five people arrested in Argentina in connection with the bombings is Iranian, and Buenos Aires is still deciding whether to cut diplomatic relations with Teheran.

Resistance Leader Promises 'Painful Surprises'

MM0108091094 London THE GUARDIAN in English
1 Aug 94 p 9

[Report on interview with Shaykh Nabil Qa'uk, leader of the Fundamentalist Muslim Resistance, by an unidentified GUARDIAN correspondent in Jibchit; date not given]

[Text] In much of South Lebanon, portraits of the late Ayatollah Khomeini and the fiery emblems of Hizballah have to compete with other political symbols and less exalted dogmas, but here they hold exclusive sway. For this hill-top village is the south's chief stronghold of anti-Israeli fundamentalist militancy.

Not that there is any sign of Hizballah fighters in the streets. They don't display themselves at all. When Shaykh Nabil Qa'uk slips into a follower's house, he comes on his own and unarmed.

The mullah is so young, so unassuming in manner, so thoughtfull in speech, so disarmingly at odds with the stereotype of the turbaned fanatic, that one can hardly believe that this really is the Hizballah chief for the whole south.

"Yes," he modestly concedes, "we are not a show-off resistance." He is too polite to express open disdain for the 'Arafat guerrillas who, more swagger than substance, used to lord it over these parts, but that is what he is implying.

He takes pride in what he sees as the rapidly growing strength and skill of his mojahedin. But he declines to assert, unlike one of his companions, that he would

positively welcome a big Israeli offensive. He only warns that, if it comes, "we shall give them some very painful surprises".

"We are stronger than we were last year"—when Israel launched Operation Accountability, a vast air, land and sea bombardment punishing the civilian population for the Hizballah militants in their midst.

South Lebanon now fearfully awaits similar Israeli retaliation for the bombs in Buenos Aires and London. Israeli flares light up the night sky. There are random shells bursts.

About 5 per cent of the south's 300,000 residents have already fled, and most have an indispensable minimum packed for instant getaway.

"It's our way of life," said Ahmad Jabir. "We learned from our parents in the 1970s, and now we are teaching our children in their turn. But I personally don't expect another big Israeli attack. What did the last achieve?"

Very little, clearly. But for that very reason Israel may want to try harder next time. And this little corner of a little country may yet again resume its strategic importance as the only place where in the otherwise increasingly peaceable Arab-Israeli struggle, violence still plays a decisive role.

The Israelis see it as a hotbed of the international Islamist terror that must be crushed, and as their opportunity to make a recalcitrant President al-Asad follow in the submissive footsteps of Mr 'Arafat and King Husayn. Conversely, both the Syrian and Lebanese governments see the Islamic "resistance" as one of the few cards left in their ever weakening hand.

"We have official as well as popular support," said Shaykh Qa'uk. He may be right about a growth in popular sympathy. If he is, it is largely because a wider public than the captive Islamic one accepts that, whoever was behind Buenos Aires and London, in Lebanon itself the Hizballah sticks scrupulously to the "rules", confining itself to military targets in the Israeli-occupied south, while the Israelis break protocol with exploits such as the recent murderous, unprovoked assault on a Hizballah training camp.

As for official support, the Lebanese army turns a blind eye to Hizballah's incursions—a practical expression of Lebanon's position that it will not act as the guardian of Israeli occupation.

Fortified with this backing, Hizballah intends, Shaykh Qa'uk says: "To find new and better ways to make Israel's occupation as expensive as we can. Expensive for them, but not for us. Because we know their weakness—which is that they are afraid of death, where we are not"

If the Shaykh is as good as his word, another South Lebanese conflagration is probably already on its way—though when, and with what consequences for the "peace process", it would be unwise to predict.

REUTER adds: Hizballah kept up military pressure on the Israeli occupiers by detonating a bomb near Beyt Yahun crossing point and wounding an Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militiaman.

"If they bombard South Lebanon, we will bombard settlements in the northern Palestine (Israel)," warned a guerrilla leader.

"If they displace 300,000 Lebanese villagers, we will displace 150,000 villagers."

The Israeli side of the border is far less populated than South Lebanon.

Phalangist Radio Criticizes Government Inaction

NC3007092694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Whereas the lifting of the ban on news and political programs has been received with satisfaction in political, leadership, and popular circles, more than one question mark has been drawn regarding the government's failure to follow up the serious developments in the south, especially as the government, in statements by more than one official, has referred to the danger facing the border area.

While officials were supposed to devote their attention to the urgent economic issues of the south in view of Israeli military threats, it has been noted that the prime minister has left for Saudi Arabia on a private visit and that the government's attention has been confined to pushing up the share price of Solidaire [the company formed to reconstruct and develop the Beirut commercial center]. This came at a time when the services ministries have completely failed to deal with the simplest needs of threatened south Lebanon.

The absent government, which chooses to go back on everything, yesterday retreated even on the media issue. Instead of engaging in competition, Tele-Liban [state-run television] returned the newscast to the 1930 slot after it had been carried at 2000 throughout the period of the news ban on private media.

Only the Foreign Ministry yesterday conducted activities dictated by the seriousness of the situation in southern Lebanon.

Junblatt: Moscow Trip Aimed To Revive Dialogue

MM0108100094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 p 3

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and minister of displaced persons, by Jalal al-Mashtah in Moscow; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Mashtah] Your sudden visit to Moscow has aroused questions about its aims, motives, and the quarters organizing it.

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[Junblatt] The visit is at the invitation of the Defense Ministry. I met with Minister General Pavel Grachev, Chief of Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov, and First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. The visit is an attempt to restore Russian-Arab dialogue, especially in circumstances in which Western circles are trying to encircle and isolate Russia even at the geopolitical level—which has made this country look smaller than it was in the days of Empress Catherine. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mashtah] But why the political dialogue with the military establishment in Russia?

[Junblatt] The initiative came from that establishment during (Chief of Staff) Kolesnikov's visit to Damascus. The establishment is calling for renewing relations with the Arabs in the absence of the Russian diplomatic establishment. And it seems that it is more keen to think about strategic relations.

[Al-Mashtah] Did you make some kind of mediation with regard to arming Syria?

[Junblatt] There were no mediation. However, we consider any military support for Syria to be support for the Arab line in Lebanon.

[Al-Mashtah] During your talks with Russian officials, did you broach the situation in the region?

[Junblatt] Yes. We said that the current peace is capitulation, and that there is no balance in the region. Even Camp David conditions are better than the Gaza-Jericho agreement. What we heard recently in Washington was like a speech expressing absolute respect for the new master of the world, the United States.

We heard nothing in Washington about settlements, water, or 60 percent of the occupied territories. We heard nothing about the refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. King Husayn is the proponent of the land-for-peace theory, but is Wadi al-'Arabah, which is half the size of al-Shuf, the intended land? [passage omitted]

[Al-Mashtah] There have been reports in Beirut about a dispute between you and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri.

[Junblatt] We want Nabih Birri to remain the ally we experienced in the Jabal [Lubnan] war and on 6 February.

[Al-Mashtah] What is your opinion of a potential Shiite-Maronite alliance?

[Junblatt] In principle, any bilateral sectarian deal will fail and will not succeed. A deal is a national deal when it proceeds from the al-Ta'if (agreement) so as to develop it and surmount sectarianism.

[Al-Mashtah] You warned of a renewal of the war in Lebanon....

[Junblatt] By that I meant tension. Because repression generates repression and tension. We do not want southern Jabal Lubnan to be annexed by the Phalangists. [passage omitted]

Media Figures on Status Following Removal of Ban

NC0208094594 Paris AFP in English 0301 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Jacques Lhuillery]

[Text] Beirut, Aug 2 (AFP)—After the cheers that filled private television and radio stations last week when the authorities lifted a four-month ban on news broadcasts, editors are now assessing the extent of their freedom.

"It is true that we've been allowed back on the air but will we really be free or only allowed to broadcast hollow news?" a journalist who declined to be named asked, echoing the concerns of many colleagues.

Within seconds of President Ilyas al-Hirawi ratifying a bill to allow the temporary resumption of private news broadcasts last Friday [29 July], parties broke out in broadcasting stations and news programs were back on the air.

But the stations were cautioned against broadcasting any political programmes which could incite religious strife.

The bill was passed overwhelmingly by parliament in mid-July despite strong opposition from Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's government which ordered the ban in March, restricting news coverage to state-run Tele Liban and Radio Liban.

But the new law awaits the approval of legislation to regulate the media in Lebanon, where more than 150 broadcasting stations sprang up—most of them illegally—during the 1975-1990 war.

As soon as the bill was ratified, the directors of the main private stations met and set up a "self-censorship commission" aimed at dealing with sensitive information such as defence, security or judicial matters.

"We are recovering some of our freedom. It's not perfect but it's better than nothing," Pierre Dahir, head of the strongest channel, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC), told AFP.

"Of course we're very happy but we must be on our guard. The media is always the first target," Dahir added.

He said LBC would steer clear of "sensitive issues such as anything that deals with south Lebanon, internal security, or judicial affairs like the Ja'ja' file," adding that judicial reports would be cleared by the authorities.

When the government ordered the ban on March 23, charging that some news broadcasts were inciting religious strife, it also outlawed the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) party of Samir Ja'ja' who controlled the LBC.

Ja'ja's LF militia was implicated in a February church bombing which killed 11 worshippers, and he has since been indicted on three charges punishable by death.

Qasim Ja'far, head of the channel NTV, ruled out any attempts to quash freedom of the press in Lebanon, home to what was long considered to be the freest media in the Arab world.

Ja'far was uncomfortable with the word "self-censorship".

"It is better to speak of in-house rules based on a code of honor. Because, don't forget, Lebanon is still a fragile country and one which is at war with Israel," he said.

But at the ICN channel of Christian business tycoon Henry Sfayr, the mood, said editor-in-chief Antoine

Shamiyah, is opposed to "making deals at the expense of the right of the people to be informed".

For Shamiyah, there are no taboos in news and the right to inform.

But for some, like the editor of the Sawt al-Watan radio, Muhammad Abu-Harfush, self-censorship has long been a norm to "avoid broadcasting information that could fuel religious strife."

The fact remains that Lebanon, a country of only 10,452 square kilometers (4,200 sq. miles) and still licking its wounds after 15 years of civil strife, has no less than 52 private television and 100 radio stations.

But Information Minister Michel Samahah said last Thursday he was confident about "the level of (political) maturity in Lebanon, be it in the way people perceive news or how news itself is broadcast".

'Positive Results' Expected From Christopher Tour

MM0208093494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Describes Christopher Upcoming Tour as 'Distinct'"]

[Text] Damascus—While the fear of new Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon continues, Damascus expects "positive results" from Christopher's upcoming tour of the region.

A Syrian information official expressed yesterday the great interest Syria devotes to this tour, which the official said will be distinct from Christopher's previous tours.

The official pointed out that U.S. President Bill Clinton personally prepared for this tour with President Hafiz al-Asad through telephone conversations between the two presidents.

Political sources in Damascus expect the contacts Christopher is going to make in the region with Syrian and Israeli officials to produce positive results, especially after Israel agreed to the Syrian request for the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to move in parallel.

The sources say that in view of the present reality, Israel might try to create a new atmosphere and a special situation with Lebanon in order to implement its demands and isolate the Lebanese track, but Syria and Lebanon have taken account of all these matters. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Christopher's upcoming tour will bring new ideas to ease the obstacles on the Syrian-Israeli track and fill the gap between the two sides.

Syria is waiting for the United States to play the role of an impartial broker and full partner by continuing the contacts and clarifying matters, because the process now needs real and practical intervention and proposals in order to advance the negotiations. Diplomatic sources in Damascus believe that, having made gains on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks, Israel is trying to dilute the situation on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the belief that it can infiltrate the two tracks and create new factors along the lines of its agreement with Jordan. However, the sources rule out Israel's ability to do that, because the Syrian and Lebanese positions are firm.

The sources add that the peace process remains incomplete with the achievement of peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. And that the peace process, and all that the Israelis believe to be gains for them on the other tracks, remain exposed to real threats and might expose the region to numerous and serious probabilities.

Achieving progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks can protect what has been achieved so far on the other tracks. In the diplomatic sources' view, that requires U.S. pressure on Israel to compel it to respond to the proposals and the peace process, that is in accordance

with the Madrid conference, because any obstruction on the Syrian track is bound to hamper the peace march and torpedo all the achievements made so far. Thus Syria feels that the key to the ultimate solution is in its [the United States] hand. This key will close the door to the serious probabilities and lead the train of peace to its destination.

Separate Deals Not To Undermine Pan-Arab Stand

JN0208093794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria's Strong Position," TISHRIN says: The Gaza-Jericho agreement has caused great damage to Arab issues in general, and the rights of the Palestinian people in particular. The Oslo deal has not resolved the Palestine question, nor ended the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

The paper speaks about the historical, human, and struggle links between Syria and Palestine, resulting in active Syrian presence in the Palestinian arena. The Gaza-Jericho agreement, as well as other separate deals, cannot strike at the roots of this presence or uproot the relations of brotherhood between Syria and Palestine that are baptized in blood and enveloped by the fragrance of history.

The paper says the Gaza-Jericho agreement has insulted and embittered the Palestinian Arab people. On the other hand, Syria's sound position was clear, since this position alone provides a solution that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people and safeguards their dignity and future. Syria has held its ground and rejected separate deals. It has insisted on a just and comprehensive solution. This has generated overwhelming Arab solidarity and sympathy with Syria's position, strengthened the position of Damascus, and provided it with new elements of strength and popular solidarity.

The paper asserts that Syria's pan-Arab position will not be undermined by any separate deal. Syria's sound position and its firm adherence to Arab rights have spared it Arab and international isolation and made it a key to peace, security, and stability in the region.

Rabin Statements on Withdrawal Said 'Vague'

JN0108165194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was eager, as usual, to shroud his statements in mystery; leaving everyone to interpret them as he wished; and keeping the door open for himself to change his mind when these statements are interpreted as Israeli readiness to make the desired peace. Reviewing

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the Syrian track, Rabin said that his government was the first in Israel to declare openly that it was ready to withdraw, avoiding, at the same time, to state the extent of that withdrawal so as to be able to avert peace requirements urging Israel to carry out a comprehensive, unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territories.

It is well known that Rabin has time and again stated that Israel will not withdraw from the entire Golan and that it is only ready to withdraw from the Golan Heights. Even when his Foreign Minister Peres spoke before the U.S. secretary of state's recent tour of the region about Israel's decision following the June aggression in 1967 to give up Syrian territories in return for peace, Rabin refused to give any explanation of his government's position on that decision. Moreover, Peres himself did not say that his government would recognize the said Israeli decision. In addition, Rabin and Peres have not yet stated that their government was ready to return to the 4 June 1967 borders, as stipulated in UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

Rabin yesterday talked about his desire to negotiate with Syria about a peaceful solution, expressing a false hope for a change on the Syrian track. But the Israeli prime minister set conditions and demands that have nothing to do with the negotiating process and that can never clear the way for a firm peace in the region. The problem does not lie in the form of the negotiations but in their substance and objective.

Whenever the Israeli prime minister talks about his readiness to meet certain requirements to achieve progress on the Syrian track, he prefers to be vague and not explain the meanings of his words in order not to commit himself, at least in clear words, to the idea that Israel is actually seeking peace. We are not surprised by Rabin's statements because they contain nothing new and because they are a repetition of previous ones, in which Israeli officials avoided clarity by resorting to vagueness and preferred secret diplomacy to working in broad daylight.

Syria, which the Israeli prime minister needs to make what he called a symbolic initiative proving its concern about peace, has offered much to peace efforts and repeatedly asserted that it wants a just and comprehensive peace that is made in broad daylight and not behind the scenes and closed doors and without the knowledge of its people. Syria entered the peace process through the front door and before the whole world, and it will continue to deal with the issue in the same way and out of the same eagerness to establish a just and comprehensive peace.

The whole world, foremost of which is the American sponsor, has admitted that Syria maintains a positive stand and that it responded positively to international efforts to establish peace. It is Israel alone that is trying to harm this honest Syrian stand in order to place obstacles in front of the peace process and to avoid the

implementation of UN resolutions. The door to peace is open, and the road to it is clear only if Israel actually seeks it. The first step toward that peace lies in commitment to relevant UN resolutions.

Syria has made successive initiatives and cleared the way for the Madrid conference. It is Israel which should be asked to make an initiative to prove its desire to bring about peace. When Israel does this, the peace process will, undoubtedly, witness real progress and will achieve its desired objective.

Radio Reports Mubarak, al-Baz Remarks

JN3107191394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Taba—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today said Syria will never sign any peace agreement with Israel without a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan.

The Middle East News Agency cited Mubarak as saying in a joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, after they concluded their meeting in Taba today, that Syria will not agree to sign any peace agreement unless there is full withdrawal from the Golan. The Egyptian president said that Syria wants peace and that President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace, believes in it, and wants to achieve peace. President Mubarak expressed hope that a breakthrough will be achieved on the Syrian track this year. He explained that he discussed the peace process with Rabin in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected tour of the Middle East.

Mubarak said: The talks dealt with promoting the regional peace efforts. He also voiced his country's readiness to promote the peace talks in the region.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry's first under secretary and head of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, said the Syrian track is major and basic to achieving peace in the Middle East and that this track cannot be ignored.

Al-Baz told journalists in Taba today that the Syrian front is very important for the peace process. At the same time, he added, we should not forget the Lebanese front.

AL-BA'TH: Arming Israel Does Not Aid Peace

JN0208083294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Arming Israel Does Not Bring Peace," AL-BA'TH says: Supplying Israel with the most dangerous weapons is one of the main reasons for the deterioration of peace and security in the region and makes them difficult to achieve.

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According to Israel's favorable treatment, in accordance with its bilateral agreements with major powers, is one of the factors that make the party opposed to Israel more careful and convinced that protecting the aggressor is a biased stand and that arming the aggressor is a violation of all that is agreed on by the world community to ensure a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper adds: So long as Israel insists on stockpiling weapons and practices aggression, in all its forms, then we have no other choice but to defend our rights and the future of our children. President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed this when he underlined the need to provide the means to defend our homeland.

The paper adds: We in Arab Syria have enough will-power to defend our rights and to make us reject the approach of immunizing Israel through separate agreements that only make their signatories regret them in the future or cause their isolation by the masses that reject such options.

The paper concludes: Syria is sure about its sound approach, has faith in its capabilities, and adheres to its strong option and constant policy regarding a viable peace. Syria relies on large and broad popular support and the wisdom and prowess of the leader of the pan-Arab march, President Hafiz al-Asad.

Agricultural Agreement Signed With Mauritania

JN3007081754 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Jul 94 p 3

[Excerpt] On the sidelines of the 22d session of the General Assembly of the Arab Center for the Studies of Dry Regions and Arid Lands which recently convened in Damascus, an agreement of cooperation was signed between Syria and Mauritania in the field of agriculture and the exchange of expertise in agriculture and associated fields. The agreement was signed for Mauritania by Sayyed Saghir Ould Moubarak [name as transliterated], minister of rural and environmental development, and for Syria by As'ad Mustafa, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform. [passage omitted]

Adherence to Madrid Conference Formula Underscored

JN3107102494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH asserts that the Madrid conference was grounded in the land-for-peace formula enshrined in the U.S. peace initiative. Israel alone has been involved in deception and maneuvering to obscure the U.S. initiative, to render it void of any meaningful content, and to circumvent it in order to erase its distinct features in the labyrinth of the obstructions it has created.

AL-BA'TH notes that the Arabs have adhered to the initiative, which is one of the terms of reference agreed upon for the Madrid conference. They consider peace as the ultimate goal and objective that needs to be achieved in order to safeguard the region's security and stability. However, a hard fact that cannot be obscured concerns the disequilibrium that has plagued the land-for-peace initiative. In this regard, the paper mentions the Gaza-Jericho accord, saying that it has failed to vindicate the Palestinian people's rights.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying that the so-called peace is not based on firm and strong foundations, because it runs counter to the terms of reference agreed on for the Madrid conference. Moreover, this peace has endorsed the maintenance of the Israeli destruction capability, which can neither promote regional peace, nor the land-for-peace formula, for that matter.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts that Israel has not thus far demonstrated good faith. Quite the opposite, it has provided ample evidence of its evasion of just and comprehensive peace. Worse still, Israel has equivocated over compliance with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. Israel's failure to demonstrate any change in its policy, which is based on expansionism, aggression, and intransigence, as manifested in its rejection of the mainstay of the peace process, proves that it is not serious about the efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace. The strongest evidence of this is that the peace process, which was grounded in the land-for-peace principle enshrined in the U.S. peace initiative and the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, has not thus far made the slightest progress.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria has repeatedly and consistently underscored its commitment to peace as a strategic option. Likewise, it has committed itself to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that would safeguard the dignity of all, as His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has said. Consequently, Syria will continue to respond favorably to U.S. peace efforts, which will manifest themselves in a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This is motivated by Syria's eagerness to achieve just and comprehensive peace. Similarly, it is driven by a desire not to waste the historic opportunity currently available for achieving such peace. Nonetheless, the achievement of such peace is contingent upon Israel demonstrating good faith, and also upon the international community showing sufficient firmness to uphold its options and implement its resolutions in this sensitive part of the world.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The reiteration by the United States of its commitment to play an active role in the Middle East peace talks to promote the achievement of just and comprehensive peace prompts one to believe that the U.S. efforts are serious. But, it remains to be said that the sincere desire to achieve just

and comprehensive peace must prompt the U.S. cosponsor of the peace talks to translate its commitment into tangible realities through removing the Israeli obstacles standing in the way of peace, and ending the stalemate plaguing the peace talks to allow for real progress, which is unachievable unless Israel articulates a clear and unequivocal commitment to complete and full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon. Israel must withdraw to the pre-June 5, 1967 borders.

The newspaper TISHRIN also addresses Israel's relentless efforts to neutralize the Madrid conference formula, and replace it with any other formula that could ensure the perpetuation of its occupation of Arab territories. TISHRIN believes that Israel's sweet words regarding salvaging the peace process through a positive handling of the peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are deceptive, because the peace process was grounded in unmistakably clear terms of reference. If it is serious about promoting and activating the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, then, Israel, must, first and foremost, underscore its full commitment to the Madrid conference formula, and the provisions enshrined in this formula. Similarly, it must announce a willingness to dismantle its occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon, and immediately implement the relevant international resolutions. Barring this, Israel will undoubtedly remain fully responsible for the stalemate plaguing the peace process, which may be killed. Under no circumstances should Israel be allowed to hold the entire peace process in complete disregard. Likewise, it should not be allowed to tamper with the destiny and future of the region.

TISHRIN adds: While repeating its demands for secret negotiations, a normalization of ties, and bilateral economic and diplomatic relations before it withdraws from the Golan and southern Lebanon, Israel shows that it has yet to meet the requirements of peace. As a matter of fact, Israel does not seek peace in the first place, nor does it want to see the Madrid formula maintain its vitality and vigor. It does not want to see international and U.S. efforts result in breaking the logjam plaguing the peace process.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: While reiterating its eagerness to render the peace process a success by allowing it to achieve its objectives, Syria will not accept anything short of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the remaining occupied Arab territories, as well as the achievement of just and comprehensive peace. Hence, Syria's adherence to the Madrid conference formula constitutes adherence to the constants and components of a just and comprehensive solution. It also constitutes adherence to the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and the land-for-peace formula.

Salman on Media, Subscription to Space Channels

JN0108080394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman met yesterday evening with the students of the Syrian Arab Astronaut Muhammad Faris Camp for university military training in Damascus. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad Faruq Abu-al-Shamat, secretary of the Damascus University branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Haytham Duwayhi, head of the National Federation of Syrian Students; several comrade members of the Damascus University branch of the Ba'th Party; the leader of the Damascus center for university training; the comrade secretaries of party branches at the university; and camp officers.

During the meeting, Dr. Muhammad Salman said: Syrian media embody the policy and approach of our political leadership in enhancing political, cultural, social, and economic awareness and immunizing citizens against the currents of Zionist and foreign invasion that seek to undermine Syria's steadfastness and active pan-Arab role in the region.

He added that Syrian media give great attention to the youth sector by embodying leader President Hafiz al-Asad's motto that the youth are the mainstay and builders of the future.

Addressing the camp students, Dr. Salman said: Brother youths, there is nothing finer than youth and there is nothing more bitter than losing youth. We view Basil al-Asad's loss through the great actions of the martyr in record time. Our talk about youth is talk about the future whose foundations were laid by the great leader, President Hafiz al-Asad.

The information minister spoke about the media's role, which is becoming greater due to the fast development in the means of communication and television space channels. This prompts us to use modern technology to give the world a true image of the stands of modern Syria and to counter hostile policies and cultures, he said.

Dr. Salman spoke about Syria's strength that stems from its constant principles, based on international legitimacy, national unity, and the cohesion of Syria's domestic front. This strength has materialized in Syria's social and political system and strong economy that is taken as example in many nations.

The information minister said the Syrian space channel, which will take off shortly, will cover the Arab homeland, Europe, and at a later stage, part of Asia and the two Americas, in line with Syria's great role on the Arab, regional, and international levels under the wise, courageous leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Dr. Salman concluded that the Information Ministry will shortly organize the reception of the space channels to allow the citizens to subscribe to these channels.

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Paper Upholds Policy of Self-Sufficiency in Food

JN3007104794 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 8

["People's Talk" column by Bassam Ja'arah: "Wheat"]

[Text] We knew right from the beginning what they meant by the concept of "comparative advantage" with regard to food security, and also why they gave publicity to this concept and tried to persuade developing countries to adopt it as policy for achieving food security by importing rather than producing. They said then and they are saying now: Why should developing countries produce their own food when they can import it at a lower cost? Why are some states compelled to purchase wheat from their peasants at \$250 per tonne when they can import it for not more than \$150 per tonne?

Any sensible person will not fail to see the logic in what they say, unless of course he knows the secrets and rules of the game; the game of the "comparative advantage" of importing food products instead of producing them.

Since we knew what they were doing for a long time in order to keep states which seek to strengthen their political independence under their tutelage and hegemony, we said it was always better to follow the slogan of producing food through self-dependence.

So, when Syria decided to adopt the policy of food production through self-dependence, it knew very well why it raised that slogan and why it decided to translate it into facts and figures despite the attraction of the "comparative advantage" concept and the drop in the price of wheat to \$100 per tonne.

People started saying that Syria was behaving like an ostrich which buries its head in the sand so it will not be seen by the hunter. Otherwise, why should it grow and produce wheat at double the world price? Nevertheless, Syria had fully comprehended the meaning of abandoning the policy of producing food through self-dependence. It did so even before 'Abd-al-Nasir's Egypt and the Soviet Union came under pressure that prejudiced their national sovereignty. We knew that all the billions of dollars of the world will not get us wheat or any other commodity if the big powers did not want to sell.

We said all that before the World Trade Organization-GATT decided to remove the subsidy on food production and exports, before a fraternal country was compelled to reduce its wheat production under foreign recommendations, and also before wheat was offered to another fraternal country at double the current world price on the pretext that the world stock of wheat has dropped and therefore the prices must go up.

We produce wheat through self-dependence in order to achieve self-sufficiency in agricultural products despite the attraction of the "comparative advantage" concept. We hope that the developing countries will wake up and

that they will not replace cultivation of wheat and cotton with strawberries, bananas and other fruits and vegetables.

Minister Cited on Assembly Nominations Deadline

JN0208074394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah has stated the following to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA:

The deadline for accepting nominations for the People's Assembly membership for the sixth legislative term will end by close of business today, Tuesday, 2 August.

Information received by the Interior Ministry from the electoral constituencies in the governorates indicates a large number of people from all sectors have applied. The minister added that the number of people whose nominations have been accepted between 24 July-30 July totaled 2,243, including 1,330 candidates for Sector A, workers and peasants, and 913 candidates for Sector B, the rest of the categories of the people. The number of candidates for the same period of the previous legislative term in 1990 totaled 1,597 candidates, including 842 for Sector A and 755 for Sector B.

The interior minister said the increase in the number of nominees for this term, compared to the same period of the previous legislative term, reflects the increase in the level of awareness on the part of the masses and their awareness of the importance of the People's Assembly in expressing their will and interests, as well as the extent of their adherence to the democratic approach charted by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Minister Inspects Drilling in Dayr al-Zawr

JN3007081394 Damascus AL-BATH in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] Dayr al-Zawr (SANA)—Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Engineer Nadir Nabulsi yesterday visited installations of the Euphrates Oil Company in Dayr al-Zawr to inspect the work being carried out by company technicians to put a drilling rig into operation at the 'Umar Oilfield. The oilfield manager and the workers on the rig briefed the minister about the nature of their work and the strata to be drilled. The minister affirmed the need to carry out all studies and measures related to the development drilling plan in order to obtain guaranteed results which will achieve stable production in the discovered oilfields. The minister also inspected the project to increase the output of the oilfield's power plants and to ensure automatic supply of electricity in order to maintain a steady production of oil and gas.

The minister then held an expanded meeting at the oilfield offices attended by the chairman of the Board of

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Directors, the general manager, and operations managers of the Euphrates Oil Company as well as some of the experts. The discussion during this meeting centered on the state of affairs in the oilfields, current and future projects and operations, and the adequate means to develop the oilfields and to train the national manpower which can cope with the progress taking place in the oil and gas industry.

Minister Inspects Hims Phosphate Mines

JN3007082194 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] Hims (SANA)—Dr. Engineer Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources, has inspected the phosphate mines in the eastern region of Hims Governorate and the quality control unit in the mines. Later, he held an expanded meeting at the administrative offices in the presence of the assistant minister for mineral resources affairs and the director general of the State Company for Phosphates and Mines. The conferees discussed the company's exploitation and production plan, the quantities of phosphates, salt, and quartz sand which have been produced, current and future projects, and the requirements of work and production.

The director general explained that the company's plan includes the production of 2 million tonnes of phosphates annually in order to meet the needs of the fertilizer plant and to export the surplus and about 80,000 tonnes of salt. He said that the company plans to increase the quantity of salt to 120,000 tonnes from the salt mines in al-Batni in Dayr al-Zawr and the salt lakes in Jabbul, al-Bawwar, and others. He added that the demand for quartz sand has increased following the decision banning any tampering with the sands on the Syrian coast.

Dr. Nabulsi praised the efforts which are being made by the company's management and workers in order to improve the quality of Syrian phosphates which are exported to world markets. He called for a scientific study of the possibility of adding a new production line for iodized salt in order to place it in the markets.

The minister affirmed the need to pay attention to production and marketing and to take all measures to ensure the machinery needed for the mines and services. He also emphasized the need to ensure proper housing, recreation facilities, and medical services for workers to reflect well on their production and social conditions.

India

Surface-to-Air Missile Test Fired 1 Aug

BK0208030494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] India's indigenously-developed surface-to-air missile Trishul [Trident] was test-fired from the Interim Test Range at Chandipur-on-Sea, 14 km from Balasore in Orissa, yesterday. The missile was fired from a mobile launcher. Two more test firings of the missile are likely this week.

Designed and developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization, Trishul has a range of 500 meters to 9 km. The solid fuel motor missile, with a capacity to carry 15 kg of warhead, has a triple battlefield role for the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Doordarshan, All India Radio To Reduce Staff

BK3107093194 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 26 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] In a significant development, the information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry has initiated an exercise to trim its staff in many crucial functional areas, like operation and maintenance of transmitters and studios.

The ministry, whose budgetary support has declined over the years, feels that the staff employed currently in its studios, power transmitters and related divisions, is "quite large".

Further, the ministry is confident that the functioning of operations of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) would not be adversely affected, once the staff trimming actually takes place.

The ministry, therefore, has, taken up this project on a priority basis and has appointed a committee to recommend ways and means to not only trim the excess staff but also identify departments where the slashing could be achieved.

Mr. R. Bose and Mr. C. P. Bhatikar, two former engineering chiefs with considerable experience in AIR and DD, have been assigned the task of conducting the study.

According to a senior I&B Ministry functionary, "the two member committee was set up recently and it is expected to give its recommendations to the ministry by the end of next month."

"It took us about six months to get these two professionals together. We, however, are happy to have a team of such experienced engineers to look into the issue of trimming the excess staff," the ministry functionary said.

The committee would be studying norms related to the operation of transmitters, studios, their maintenance as also the maintenance of general machinery and equipment in AIR and DD. It would identify all divisions in

the ministry to short-list departments with excess staff. Subsequently, it would recommend reduction in staff in some of these divisions.

Following the submission of the committee's report, the ministry would work out a policy on the future of the excess staff, an official said. Allaying fears of the AIR and DD staff, ministry officials asserted that the interests of those employees, who would be taken off from duty at transmitters, studios and allied departments, would be protected at all costs.

Iran

U.S. Called On To Prove Christopher Remarks

LD0108175694 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Judiciary chief, Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi here monday called on the U.S. Administration to either present its evidence in support of Christopher's statement or make an apology.

Speaking to a nationwide gathering of judiciary officials, Yazdi stressed that Washington should provide documentation to the competent forums and to the "vigilant conscience" of the humanity, otherwise it should have the courage to apologize to the Iranian nation.

U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, in his speech before the Senate on Thursday called Iranians an "outlaw" nation and tried to put the blame for the bombings in Buenos Aires and London on Iran, calling on U.S. Western allies to take serious measures against Tehran.

Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations in a press release issued on Friday strongly objected to Christopher's statement and said that his comments stemmed from continuous U.S. animosity against Iran.

Furthermore, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi on Friday refuting Christopher's statements said the U.S. itself is an international outlaw who supports the state terrorism of the Zionist regime.

In another development in this regard, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Javad Zarif termed the statements of U.S. secretary of state as undiplomatic and against the international courtesy.

Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan Transport Deals Approved

LD3107205294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Excerpts] After the cabinet meeting, First Vice President Hasan Habibi spoke to reporters and said: [passage omitted] During the meeting the cabinet approved a bill

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proposed by the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Ministry for the establishment of a government-owned company named Postibank. The company deals with banking transactions through post and its capital belongs to the government.

The cabinet spokesman also said: Two bills on air transport agreements between the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan were also approved by the cabinet during its session on Sunday. [passage omitted]

Tehran Claims Informant 'Enticed' by CIA

LD0108200794 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Madrid, Aug. 1, IRNA—Iranian Embassy in Madrid in a press release issued here today rejected the false claim that Manuchehr Mo'tamer was an Iranian diplomat.

Spanish newspapers recently quoting some Argentinian authorities claimed that Manuchehr Mo'tamer an Iranian refugee in Venezuela had previously been a high ranking Iranian diplomat and that the Argentinian authorities have used him as a source to base their accusations against Iran regarding the bombing of the Israeli association in Buenos Aires.

The Iranian Embassy dismissed such claims today and gave a brief biography of the impostor diplomat to be printed in the Spanish newspapers and also underlined that Mo'tamer was never an Iranian diplomat.

According to the available documents Mo'tamer was an Iranian who once resided in Isfahan. He tried to gain a visa to the U.S. but failed several times. He finally ended up in Venezuela having been arrested four times on such charges as forging passports.

It is said that CIA might have enticed Mo'tamer to make such claims in a quid pro quo deal to give him a visa to the U.S.

Security Official on MKO Member's Arrest

LD0108181694 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—The Monday's arrest of Mahdi Nahvi, responsible for the June 20 bomb explosion in Mashhad followed an extensive manhunt launched by security forces in conjunction with the law enforcement personnel and the people, the minister of information said Monday.

After arrest of Bahram Abbaszadeh, caught red handed while attempting to plant a bomb at a Sunni mosque in Zahedan, and his subsequent confessions concerning his collaboration with Mahdi Nahvi, security officials were placed on full alert especially at the country's exit points.

Finally, he said, a team of securitymen patrolling Tehran Pars district in eastern Tehran Monday morning identified Nahvi and arrested him after a shootout.

He said Nahvi first opened fire and securitymen who were chasing him had to return fire as a result of which the MKO terrorist was shot in the shoulder, Abdomen and liver, the minister said.

Fallahian said the culprit was now receiving treatment at a Tehran hospital for the injuries he received during the shootout.

The bomb planted by Nahvi at the shrine of Imam Reza (as) on June 20 claimed the lives of 26 pilgrims and injured scores of others who were mourning the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussayn (as).

Based on Nahvi's preliminary confessions, other persons had been involved in the Mashhad bomb explosion, the minister said, adding that necessary measures have been taken to arrest those suspects.

When asked why he had committed such a heinous crime, Nahvi replied that he had carried out the orders of the organization (MKO), Fallahian added.

The minister reiterated that the hysterical acts being committed by MKO terrorists indicated that they are no longer able to continue their fighting nor have they any desire for recruiting new members.

Nahvi Dies in Tehran Hospital

LD0208135394 Tehran IRNA in English 1303 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Mehdi Nahvi, a member of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), succumbed to his severe injuries and died at a Tehran hospital despite round-the-clock efforts of a medical team to save his life.

Nahvi, who killed 26 pilgrims and wounded many others by planting a bomb at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) on June 20, was shot and wounded in a clash with security forces in Tehran Monday morning. He was taken to a Tehran hospital immediately after being wounded and underwent surgical operations.

MKO Member 'Inadvertently' Confirms Terrorism

LD0108144194 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] London, Aug. 1, IRNA—The London branch of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization has for the second time inadvertently confessed to carrying out terrorist acts against Iran for the past 15 years. In a letter to THE INDEPENDENT newspaper Monday, Hoseyn Abedini admitted that his terrorist group had spent the past decade and a half executing what he preferred to call "acts of resistance" which he claimed could be

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distinguished from "terrorism." The London-based terrorist member was prompted to write to the daily after it exposed the true nature of the anti-Iran organization last week.

His admission follows the London branch's earlier acknowledgement that the MKO's latest campaign of terror was relaunched in Iran on June 20, the day it resorted to bomb the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) in Mashhad, killing and injuring more than 100 worshippers.

In his own words, Abedini said acts of terrorism can be recognized by their intention "to intimidate by killing and injuring innocent people." The MKO's terrorist activities have also been recently admitted by the British Government, which currently allows the outlawed organization to operate in Britain in breach of the commitment by the G7 industrial powers to combat international terrorism.

The preferred term used by the UK Foreign Office is that the grouplet carries out "political violence" and claims that as long as it does not break British laws it is allowed to campaign in the UK.

Arrest of MKO's Nahvi, Bombings Viewed

NC0208083794 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 2 Aug 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] With the arrest of Mehdi Nahvi, the agent behind the bombing of shrine of Imam Reza, the eighth imam, the most important missing link to the explosions at home and abroad has fallen into the hands of justice. The explosion at the holy shrine of Imam Reza was the starting point of extensive operations in pursuit of vaster objectives. These extensive operations were coordinated by Mehdi Nahvi; Nahvi was the link between these operations and the foreign elements involved. The initial information showed that the first foreign network was based in Germany.

Many analysts believe that with the coming to light of Nahvi's links to the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] and the definitive nature of the Monafeqin's links to the Zionists and the Americans, many behind-the-scenes issues will be clarified and will place the foreign mentors of the Monafeqin in a tight spot, especially since the view is gradually forming that the explosions in Argentina, London, and Panama were a series of coordinated and planned operations, one of the most important objectives of which was to overshadow the crimes perpetrated by the Monafeqin inside Iran.

The actual objective was to portray Iran, which is a victim of terrorism, as a terrorist element. But despite mobilizing the West's propaganda machinery and mass

media to propagate this lie, and despite having high-ranking diplomatic pawns such as Secretary of State Warren Christopher and high-ranking Argentine officials implicate Iran, the political machinery involved in these efforts immediately started to retreat; of course, they had no choice. Immediately after Christopher remarked that the Iranian nation is an outlaw, the U.S. secretary of state rejected Iran's involvement in the explosions, stating that there is no proof of this involvement.

We are now witnessing a new retreat by Argentine officials. The Argentine foreign minister stated yesterday that he does not have any proof of Iran's involvement in the explosion at the Argentine-Israel Mutual Association. Before going to the United Nations to attend a UN Security Council session, the Argentine foreign minister did not permit any doubts that Iran was guilty. But yesterday he said: We do not believe that Iran was linked to the explosion and we have taken back our former accusations against Iran. Argentine President Carlos Menem retreated in another way, saying the explosion is a domestic issue.

Thus, the explosions at home and abroad should be seen in the context of a Monafeqin-Zionist axis supported by some Western governments. Mehdi Nahvi's arrest will possibly reveal new facts about the activities of this Monafeqin-Zionist axis.

'Absolute Control' Over Extremists Said Lacked

MM0108161294 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jul 94 p 3*

[Article by Amir Taheri]

[Text] London—The recent bombings in Buenos Aires and London have provoked an unprecedented campaign against Iran's alleged role as a sponsor of international terrorism.

The UN Security Council yesterday issued a statement, condemning terrorism but without mentioning Iran. The British Government insists on leveling any specific accusations against the Iranian Government before a full investigation has been conducted. The recent bombings have been said to be carried out by various radical groups, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, Hizballah, and Ansarallah [Followers of God], which are believed to enjoy the present Iranian Government's support.

But these organizations are basically based in Arab countries, especially Lebanon and Jordan, as well as the occupied territories. This is why it is possible that the Governments of Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel—in addition to the Syrian Government, because of its military presence in Lebanon—are acquainted with the aims of these organizations. And if these governments wanted to stop the activities of these radical groups, no Iranian financial or political support would have been able to maintain their vitality or activity.

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Iran's support for these and other organizations in numerous other countries is not concealed. In February every year, leaders of these organizations go to Tehran to visit Khomeini's tomb and to discuss future strategy with Iranian leaders. Official Iranian statistics indicate that Iran spends at least \$500 million annually to reinforce its own form of radical tendencies abroad. It is believed that Lebanese Hizballah receives at least half this sum. Nevertheless, the nature of Iran's relations with these organizations is not a master-subservient relationship. True, Lebanese Hizballah won Iran's gratitude by taking Western hostages when hostage-taking was politically suitable for Tehran. But that does not mean that Hizballah or any other Iranian-backed group does all Iran wants or requests.

The opposite is true. Theoretically Iran can exert sufficient pressure on most of these groups to prevent them from doing certain things. And for example, some European states have recently been included on Iran's "friends list" because they agreed to reschedule Iran's debts and provide new loans. It can be assumed that Iran will do all it can to prevent the occurrence of terrorist operations in Germany, France, Italy, and Austria.

Iran has not carried out any terrorist operations in the United States since 1989, because President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, whose hopes have to a large extent been dashed, was hoping to resume relations with Washington. But no one can expect Iran to put pressure on Hizballah or anyone else to rule out Israeli targets in retaliation to Israel's attacks.

If we leave radical organizations aside, Iran has its own network of terror cells. According to knowledgeable Western intelligence sources, there are "latent cells" in at least 20 countries, among them the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Pakistan.

But these "latent cells" are not used against Israel or any other foreign country. The main targets are exiled Iranians who could become active against the present government. It is believed that the Iranian community in exile is about 3.2 million people distributed among 50 countries, from Australia to Argentina.

The "latent cells" have participated in 40 assassination incidents in the past decade. Their activities focused on three main targets:

1. Former Army officers suspected of collaborating with Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war.
2. Prominent members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq group, an armed movement based in Baghdad. Tehran believes it is responsible for terrorist actions inside Iran.
3. Any prominent Iranian figure who emerges with the passage of time as a focus for the opposition against the regime.
4. Senior officials of the former royal regime and some royal family members.

It is not known whether these "latent cells" participate sometimes in facilitating terrorist operations carried out by non-Iranian groups.

If they really do, the supreme national defense council must approve this, on the grounds that it is the highest decisionmaking body in the country. The "latent cells" belong to the Security and Intelligence Ministry, which in turn belongs to the supreme council in question. And it must be assumed that Iran will not risk its networks merely to satisfy Hizballah or Hamas.

On the contrary, whenever Iran has used terrorism as a diplomatic means against specific countries, it has used non-Iranian people. The terrorism tide in Paris in 1986 was launched on orders from Iran, as was clear. But the perpetrators came from Lebanon, Tunis, and Algeria.

If we leave the "networks belonging" to the Iranian Government aside, one should take into consideration the existence of terrorist arms [adhru' irhabiyah] of several nongovernmental organizations. These organizations are often very rich establishments and behave like a state within the state. In fact they have their own representation in numerous capitals, from Beirut to London. Many of these establishments operate under the cover of charity, offer scholarships, finance orphanages, and run information establishments. There is an establishment of this kind which publishes, for example, a daily newspaper in London. Another establishment publishes a weekly magazine in Illinois, United States.

A large number of these establishments are run by revolutionary mullahs, and their administrative structures include old members of the Revolutionary Guard and the terrorism network that waged the war against the shah's regime in the sixties and seventies.

The Iranian Government does not have much control over these establishments, which are sometimes suspected of involvement in the murder of Iranian officials from rival wings.

The bitter war between the Khomeini wing and the Montazeri wing in the late eighties showed that many of the groups set up and financed by Iran are loyal to certain leaders, not the Iranian Government as an official body.

The assumption that Iran has a well-organized structure that takes clear decisions and implements them precisely is incorrect. Because Iran is still in the middle of revolutionary turbulence, and revolutionary committees are always moving state organs aside.

Some Western states now understand this reality. They believe that what is left of Iranian state organs should be helped to recover sufficient influence to contain revolutionary organs.

That might be achieved in a strategic long term, as there is no sign in Iran that it is moving toward a return to normal conditions.

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'Realistic Approach' Urged To Deal With West

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[Editorial: "A United Front—Needed Against the Unholy Alliance"]

[Text] The concerted efforts by the media of the powers of world arrogance in not reflecting the events and issues in Iran and blatant distortion of them are an indication of the covert factors behind the scenes, which are without any doubt of immense importance and sensitivity in the current circumstances. Such a trend, which has not been very common in recent years, cannot take place without planning. A characteristic of the contemporary world is the amazing impact of the media in delineating the political strategy and various incidents in international relations.

Two distinctive traits in these policies and strategies are conspicuously evident: First, that the United States and the Zionists view themselves on the brink of momentous developments after years of efforts, which began with the historical collusion on the part of al-Sadat and culminated in the historic signing of the Gaza-Jericho Accord because of 'Arafat's treachery and collusion. Now with the official debut of King Husayn behind the negotiating table, only Syria remains, which is not ready yet.

In view of the recent course of events, the impression is that Syria is preparing to jump on the bandwagon. In conjunction with these two significant events, the proliferation of the Islamic and reformist movements has changed the face of the Middle East to a great extent. One of the most important measures taking shape is that the United States and Tel Aviv are waiting for an opportunity to put these changes behind them and are preparing for a complex confrontation with the Islamic movements in the Middle East, which would pave the way for changes in the traditional governments in those countries.

In both of these developments, Iran's policies and strategies are considered major hindrances. Iran's opposition to the trend of compromise resulted in delaying the pace of that trend and proved conducive for the deepening and the propagation of the true Islamic movements. Thus, the sensitive position of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be instrumental in posing problems for all colonial developments in the Middle Eastern countries in the future, which are in some way intended to neutralize the Islamic movements.

On the basis of this perception of Iran's policies, the United States and Tel Aviv are intensifying their efforts to mold international public opinion to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran so that the scope of Iran's international and regional moves will be limited. In the event of such a possibility arising, they will seek to resort to the well-known instruments of pressure, such as economic embargoes and political and military intervention.

The second characteristic, which is linked to the first, includes the organization and manipulation of specific issues inside Iran, such as taking advantage of economic problems, fanning political differences in the government, undermining the social system, generating a cultural crisis, and accentuating national and religious differences.

An appraisal of the propaganda, analyses, and reports from the U.S., British, and Zionist media on Iran in the past year indicates that they concentrated mainly on three subjects: 1. Major differences among the country's leaders and executive officials; 2. Economic difficulties and the government's inability to resolve them; 3. Major differences among political groups, religious minorities, ethnic groups, and so on.

These propagandist moves were based, on occasion, on various incidents or natural occurrences that took place in the country. At times, these occurred because of instigation by extraneous factors, which explains this line of propaganda. Even when this was not possible, as in the case of the events in Mashhad and some other cities last year, similar propagandist moves were implemented and there is no doubt that the recent events on 'Ashura in Mashhad, the killing of the two priests, and similar events can be viewed in the same analytical context.

In an overall assessment, you can say that these two main characteristics of the West's propaganda against Iran are designed to whip up an international atmosphere and create a similar atmosphere at home. These points become more meaningful if viewed against the backdrop of U.S. efforts to achieve its objectives by attacking and threatening our territorial integrity, independence, freedom, and our existence as a nation.

It would be rather simplistic if we were to analyze and dissect these issues in an abstract manner and not consider all the factors of the issue. It would be just as inane to make this politico-propagandist direction the criterion while ignoring the internal realities in our society. We would then be treading an erroneous path that would negate all those values, values for which our revolution endured numerous tribulations to achieve. We can therefore deduce that a realistic approach and an accurate identification of the current domestic and foreign issues is required to achieve a correct and Islamic solution.

We do not wish to discuss trivia, as this is not the time for it and there is no need for it now. We can discuss such things in a different set of circumstances, because a calm social atmosphere is required. In general, our officials and our society should realize the following issues and should adopt a correct Islamic approach:

1. The danger is a calculated and serious one that warns us that our territorial integrity, honor, independence, and the future of the revolution and the Islamic system are targeted.

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2. In view of its complex and tempting character this move requires a realistic attitude and total sensitivity.

3. While we consider this danger as a serious warning we should not be assailed by doubts about a united front. It is because there is a basic conflict of interests among the Western countries and because these countries have distinctive problems that we have more room to maneuver. We should therefore identify this situation precisely and follow a poised and principled policy.

4. The most important need of our society today is unified conduct, decisionmaking, action, and the strengthening of the domestic front by mustering all our energy, resources, and capability. Never has our society had such a need for principled unity. We should relinquish all egocentricity, aberrant thinking, opportunism, and, most importantly, all simplemindedness and conservatism. With firm determination, we should accept the belief that the rightfulness of our principled stance can be a strong weapon to counteract these dangers. What really undermines our position is our incorrect perception of a united front or sociopolitical unity.

If we were to construe that unity of thought means accepting a particular mode of thinking or perspective, we will fail at the start. Principled unity lies in accepting that all our people—regardless of their different tastes and thinking—have only one responsibility as regards our national prestige and the integrity of the revolution and country, namely, to stand alongside one another, because their mutual convergence is required to undermine the enemy's morale.

5. An important and basic point is that some people wrongly imagine that a tactical [preceding word in

English] retreat, that is, the display of an inclination to resolve some of the differences with the United States and, in their words, carry out politico-propagandist maneuvers can mitigate the tension somewhat. But experience has proven this theory mistaken and every step that is taken backward is considered to weaken our stance and be to our detriment. Maintaining a principled and realistic stance is clearly different from taking an obsequious stance. On principle, such a conservative approach is usually adopted covertly without the knowledge of the people. A realistic policy relies on the people who are informed about it and includes their acceptance and participation.

The best and most effective course of action is to present the various issues and facts to the people and to acquaint them with various problems, as we believe that the best and most correct decisions are those made by the people.

6. Another principle is that along with such unity the national attitude toward foreign issues reinforces the domestic posture. When the people understand the current conditions, they feel that they are involved. They get the impression that their words, views, and problems will be viewed realistically.

The presence of weaknesses and difficulties is no reason to justify indifference on the part of the people toward various issues. It is discrimination, egocentricity, and a thoughtless and unprincipled approach on the part of certain individuals that has an eroding effect. These persons believe that they are the centers of truth and permit themselves to seek their own interests and impose their own viewpoints in all matters. Such a vantage point is deleterious in all cases; it is tantamount to enmity against the revolution, people, and leadership in the current sensitive circumstances, regardless of what the reason or justification may be.

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